

Hafa Adai!

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NASA seeks student experiments to soar in second TechRise Challenge. **PAGE 6**

\$1

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Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino, Imperial Palace Saipan, in Garapan.
CHRYSTAL MARINO

Auction of IPI's assets to begin on August 30

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has lifted the stay on the limited receivership that was previously granted against Imperial Pacific In-

ternational (CNMI) LLC and its assets and has ordered Clear Management to proceed with its auction of IPI's assets starting Aug. 30.

According to an order issued by District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Magalona's yesterday, the stay

on the limited receivership that was previously granted in favor of U.S.A. Fanter Corp.

See AUCTION on Page 4

Hocog wants 'to give chance to the younger generation'

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
Red: Least safe
Orange
Yellow
Blue
Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



Sen. Victor Borja Hocog (R-Rota) said he decided not to seek any elected position this Nov. 8 general election to give the younger generation that opportunity.

See HOCOG on Page 4

Swap of Tinian, Rota guest houses proposed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan has proposed a swap deal with



Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig, in which Tinian will get the entire guest house building on Navy Hill, while Rota will have the

See SWAP on Page 4

» Santos opposes proposal, says it's lopsided

Dog Control Program manager Martin Pangelinan, rightmost; Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, second from left; and Grace and Aria Keilbach of Boonie Babies Saipan, third and fourth from right, pose with visiting veterinarian, Dr. Kris Anderson DVM, third from left, at the Saipan Mayor's Office Multifunctional Animal Shelter in As Perdido.



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

INSIDE



LOCAL

Marianas Southern Airways will launch direct flights to Guam tomorrow, Saturday.

PAGE 13



ASIA

The U.S. government will hold talks with Taiwan on a trade treaty in a sign of support.

PAGE 16



OFF THE WALL

When Allie Tarantino was flipping through a magazine years ago, he came upon a familiar name: Mark Zuckerberg.

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Local

Gubernatorial bets invited to a forum on 'Marianas Agupa'

The Marianas Agupa radio talk show has invited all three gubernatorial candidates—incumbent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres of the NMI Republican Party, Rep. Christina "Tina" Sablan of the NMI Democratic Part, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios of the unified independent team—to a virtual (side by side) "forum-like" appearance on Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022, at am. The link to the show will be emailed to each of the candidates before the date.

The purpose of the forum-like appearance on the show will be for the listening public

to hear how the three candidates respond to each other and to the questions and issues facing the Commonwealth. The language will either be in Chamorro or English and the order to respond to a question shall be by their number on the ballot. No. 1; No. 2 and No. 3.

Each of the candidates shall be given up to 5 minutes for an opening statement, followed by their responses to the ensuing questions.

All three candidates will be asked the following questions:

1. What are your top three priorities for the first 100 days if elected governor and how

you will measure your success in each of your priority? (5 minutes each)

2. Why do you deserve to be elected governor the CNMI and what makes you a better candidate than the other two candidates running for governor? (5 minutes each)

There will be no rebuttal on this question-and-answer segment.

All three candidates shall then be given up to 5 minutes for a closing statement. There will also be no rebuttal on this segment.

Questions from the listening audience will be taken for each of the candidates for governor. (One question each from the public). All the questions will be asked and moderated by talk show host Glenn H. Manglona.

The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. It will also be streamed via <https://tunin.com/radio/KWAW-FM-1003-s43718/> and Marianas Agupa YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5heK-ROSqcSVHg5ztadbDHA> and Marianas Agupa Facebook page. (PR)

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House Ways and Means to subpoena Finance, Atalig

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives

FBI Guam Resident Agency launches cybersecurity awareness campaign

The FBI Honolulu Field Office – Guam Resident Agency has launched a cybersecurity awareness campaign to educate private sector businesses and organizations in Guam about the growing threat of cyberattacks, and to encourage businesses to establish a proactive relationship with FBI Guam Resident Agency before a cyber incident occurs.

"FBI Honolulu is committed to investigating and combating any malicious cyber activity targeting the private sectors. In addition to agents, analysts, and computer scientists who track and counter emerging cyber threats, we work closely with our law enforcement and cybersecurity partners throughout the state," said FBI special agent in charge Steven Merrill. "We encourage you to partner with us to serve as force multipliers to protect our country's cyber defenses and your assistance in working together to strengthen

Ways and Means Committee agreed Wednesday to summon the Department of Finance and Finance Secretary David DLG. Atalig or his designee to compel them to produce numerous reports that the committee members have sought.

With eight committee members voting yes to the issuance of a subpoena—with two not present during voting and two absent—the motion offered by Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) to issue the subpoena passed.

Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said he, vice chair Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) and the House counsel will prepare the documents that will be issued to Finance.

Before Sablan offered the motion, Manglona explained

See FBI on Next Page



ised to provide after past meetings.

Manglona said there are several committee members that are concerned for the most part about how the CNMI government is spending its American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

Sablan said that, in light of the committee's interest in carrying out its responsibilities to prepare the fiscal year 2023 budget and also to exercise legislative oversight as to the financial condition of the government, and in light of the

multiple requests for records that remain unanswered by Finance, she would offer this motion to issue a subpoena to Finance and to the Finance secretary or his designee for records sought by the committee and its members.

Sablan said the records should be submitted within

See HOUSE on Next Page

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SPAY**From Page 1**

Apatang said in a news release yesterday that this low-cost service will be done by Dr. Kris Anderson, DVM, who will be in the CNMI from Aug. 18, 2022, to Sept. 16, 2022.

"I am very happy to welcome Dr. Kris Anderson, DVM, to Saipan to offer our residents that own pets low-cost spay and neuter services," said Apatang.

This comes a month and a half after the last spay and neuter clinic was conducted by the U.S. Army's 445th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services on Saipan.

SWAP**From Page 1**

whole guest house facility in As Lito. But Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) strongly opposes the proposal, which she describes as a "lopsided exchange."

In a letter Monday to Atalig, Aldan said the plan will enable both Tinian and Rota to operate their medical referral facilities more effectively and efficiently.

Aldan said that having one whole property for each municipality will improve operational efficiency and reduce costs for each municipality

Apatang said that Boonie Babies Saipan made the arrangement to bring Anderson to Saipan, and she arrived on island on Wednesday morning.

Anderson graduated from Texan A&M University veterinary school in 2009.

"The expense to fly Dr. Anderson to Saipan from an area just outside of Houston, Texas, was paid for by Boonie Babies Saipan. At the same time, Boonie Babies Saipan used its own resources to purchase supplies and equipment to be used in the clinic," added the mayor.

"This is one way of helping pet owners take care of their pets and improve their health, and we are very fortunate that Dr. Anderson was

when all the patients are located in the same area.

Atalig asked Santos on Monday for a meeting with the Rota Legislative Delegation so they could discuss Aldan's proposed exchange.

At present, Tinian and Rota share a building on Navy Hill for their respective guest houses that serve as temporary housing for their medically referred patients on Saipan.

Tinian and Rota also have their second respective guest houses at the former Valley Inn in As Lito due to the increasing number of inter-island referrals to Saipan.

Aldan said with the number of medical referral patients increasing

willing to travel thousands of miles to a different time zone and climate conditions to offer her expertise," said Arron Danaher of Boonie Babies Saipan.

The clinic will be held at the Mayor's Office Multifunctional Animal Shelter in As Perdido. Today, Friday, will be the first day of operation, starting from 9am to around 3pm. Pet owners should check clinic schedules and fees for spay and neuter services by calling the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program at (670) 234-3647 [DOGS] for details.

"I am excited to be [on] Saipan and am sure pet owners are as excited that their pets can now receive proper health care they need. With my years

on Tinian, which he is sure is similarly happening on Rota, he is seeking ways to continue to ensure that Tinian residents are provided a safe and sanitary living situation.

Aldan said since the implementation of the displaced patient program and the acquisition of the Tinian Guest House at the Marianas Medical Referral Center in As Lito, the leadership over the years has continued to make small renovations to improve the facilities whenever funding permits.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ously agreed to, and the plaintiffs, former IPI workers alleging labor violations, have sought to lift the stay on the limited receivership so that IPI's gaming equipment could be sold to satisfy their judgment against IPI.

At a hearing last Aug. 16, the court granted the plaintiffs' request and ordered that the stay on the limited receivership be lifted. However, the court issued its official decision and order yesterday to memorialize its reasoning.

In her order, Manglona also addressed what IPI assets can and cannot be sold.

Manglona said she previously asked the parties to brief the issue of the appropriate scope of what items are included in the limited receivership and may be sold by Clear Management.

However, other than its arguments that the gaming machines cannot be sold because of 4 CMC § 51564, and arguing that the entire limited receivership should be dissolved, IPI did not provide an analysis based on the court's

The order further provided that Clear Management is authorized to sell all gaming equipment identified during the inspection to fulfill the judgment in this matter.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

■ The CARES Act expenditure report.

■ The report on Travel Bucks, what has been spent versus what the government has realized in returns.

■ The report on attorneys fees for the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's witness and for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

■ The report on the total amount returned from the stimulus cards as well as the report on business gross revenue tax revenue generated as a result of the stimulus.

■ Updated actuarial report on the Settlement Fund.

of training, my goal is to spay and neuter as many pets as I can while am here," said Anderson.

"I am thankful that Boonie Babies and Ms. Lauren Cabrera of Boonie Flight Project for their efforts in coordinating this clinic and for making it possible for Dr. Anderson to come to Saipan," said Apatang.

HOCOG**From Page 1**

tunity to enter the arena of politics.

Hocog stated in an interview last week, though, that he will still be politically active when his four-year term as senator expires in January 2023. "But as far as seeking re-election, I want to honor what I made during my inaugural speech that I will not run, or it's going to be my last term," said Hocog, who is turning 69 next month.

Upon his term's expiration, Hocog said he will relax by doing fishing and farming on Rota.

For the Senate Rota seats, the NMI Republican Party's bets are Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and special assistant for Department of Homeland Security Dennis James C. Mendiola.

Hocog said he first entered politics in 1984 when he was elected as

"There is a huge need for veterinary care in the Marianas, and we are committed to helping with this. We are so grateful for our partnership with the Mayor's Office and Dog Control Program that made this clinic possible," said Cabrera.

Anderson will be on Tinian from Sept. 11 to 14. (PR)

a member of the House of Representatives.

After serving two terms in the House, he took a break when he ran for lieutenant governor as running mate of then-former governor Froilan Tenorio.

"Evidently, we didn't make it. We were short so I took a break and engaged myself to work with a company out of Japan to build the Rota Resort," Hocog said.

He then worked with a golf course of the hotel, and built a small construction company. He then successfully ran for the Senate in 2012.

When then-governor Eloy S. Inos died in December 2015, then-lieutenant governor Ralph DLG Torres became governor and Hocog, who was then the Senate president, assumed the lieutenant governor's position until January 2019.

He was re-elected senator and served as Senate president from January 2019 to January 2021.

their networks.

In addition to partnering with the FBI Honolulu Field Office – Guam Resident Agency, the most vital step a company or organization can take to protect itself is to implement good cyberhygiene practices.

Preventive steps

■ Update and patch operating systems and software.

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■ Require personnel to choose a strong, unique password for each account and use multifactor authentication for as many services as possible. Passwords should be changed regularly.

■ Educate personnel about phishing schemes to highlight the risks of clicking on suspicious links, opening suspicious attachments, and visiting suspicious websites.

■ Keep offline backups of data, and regularly test backup and restoration capabilities. Ensure all backup data is encrypted and immutable.

■ Develop a cybersecurity incident response plan that includes the FBI. If compromised, contact the FBI immediately.

■ If you believe someone has compromised your systems, beware of signs of compromises such as broken passwords, myriad pop-ups, slow-running devices, altered system settings, or unexplained online activity.

Businesses and organizations can contact the FBI Honolulu Field Office–Guam Resident Agency at (671) 472-7465 or the FBI's 24/7 CyWatch at (855) 292-3937 or cywatch@fbi.gov. Speed matters when responding to an intrusion, as criminals can quickly destroy network operations. Rapid notification allows the FBI to quickly deploy our cyber experts to preserve evidence and work with a company's incident responders to help recover

AUCTION**From Page 1**

but has since been assumed by former IPI workers who had sued IPI for labor violations is lifted and Clear Management may proceed with the auction of IPI's casino gaming machines no sooner than Aug. 30, 2022.

Manglona also stated in her order that if IPI has any objections to items on the list of assets that will be sold, or items listed on Clear Management's inventory website, IPI must lodge any objections no later than Aug. 30.

In addition, IPI was ordered to pay plaintiffs' attorneys' fees for the time spent litigating IPI's objection to the limited receivership proceeding even after it was found in default, and the plaintiff must submit a petition for fees and costs no later than Aug. 30.

According to court documents, the court previously determined that IPI defaulted under the stay agreement for failing to increase the supersedeas bond they previ-

HOUSE**From Page 3**

five days of the date the subpoena is received.

Sablan said these records shall include but not limited to:

■ ARPA funds status by agency department and expense type.

■ Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements going back to typhoons Soudelor, Mangkhut, Yutu, and COVID-19.

■ The pandemic total costs by fiscal year and expense category.

■ The CARES Act expenditure report.

■ The report on Travel Bucks, what has been spent versus what the government has realized in returns.

■ The report on attorneys fees for the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's witness and for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

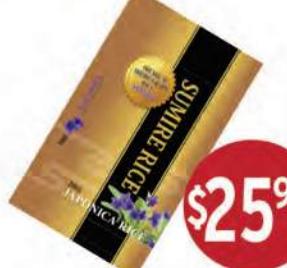
■ The report on the total amount returned from the stimulus cards as well as the report on business gross revenue tax revenue generated as a result of the stimulus.

■ Updated actuarial report on the Settlement Fund.



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NASA seeks student experiments to soar in second TechRise Challenge

NASA is calling on middle and high school students to join the second NASA TechRise Student Challenge, which invites student teams to develop, build, and launch science and technology experiments on high-altitude balloons.

Students in grades six to 12 attending U.S. public, private, or charter schools—including those in U.S. territories—are challenged to team up with their schoolmates to design an experiment under the guidance of an educator. Teams should submit their experiment ideas by Oct. 24, 2022.

Administered by Future Engineers, the NASA TechRise Student Challenge offers hands-on insight into the design and test process used by NASA-supported researchers. It aims to inspire a deeper understanding of Earth's atmosphere, surface features, and climate, as well as space exploration, coding, electronics, and the value of test data. "We are thrilled to offer the second NASA TechRise Student Challenge," said NASA administrator Bill Nelson. "The quality of the experiments and the creativity we saw from students in

the last challenge are exactly the kinds of problem-solving and hands-on learning NASA hopes to inspire. We're eager to see what innovative ideas pour in from students around the nation this year."

To participate in the challenge, visit:

<https://www.futureengineers.org/nasatechrise>

A total of 60 winning teams will be selected to turn their proposed experiment idea into reality and launch their technology on a suborbital flight test. The winning teams will each receive \$1,500 to build their experiment and

an assigned spot on a NASA-sponsored high-altitude balloon flight operated by one of two commercial providers: Aerostar of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, or World View based in Tucson, Arizona. Both high-altitude balloons provide exposure to the stratosphere at altitudes of approximately 9-19 miles (15-30 kilometers) and variable duration of flight time of hours to days. The challenge is led by NASA's Flight Opportunities program, which rapidly demonstrates technologies for space exploration and the expansion of space

ON THE NET

■ <https://www.futureengineers.org/nasatechrise>

commerce through suborbital testing with industry flight providers.

The winning teams will also receive technical support and mentorship from Future Engineers, including the opportunity to learn or improve technology skills such as soldering, coding, and 3D design. NASA encourages students and their instructors to submit experiment ideas even if they have no prior experience with these activities.

"We could not do a project like this in our classroom without the support of NASA TechRise," said Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director of the Greater Lowell Technical High School in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts, which had one of the winning teams in last year's challenge. "It is something that is truly out of this world! This challenge helped students develop their own unique ideas for future inventions, which adds a new layer of meaning to what they learn."

To enter the competition, teams will propose their experiment idea online using the design guidelines and proposal template on the competition site. NASA plans to announce the competition winners in January 2023. The selected student teams will build their payloads from January to May, and the final experiments will take flight in summer 2023.

Educators interested in TechRise are strongly encouraged to join the virtual educator workshop on Saturday, Aug. 27, to learn more about the challenge, high-altitude balloons, and how to develop a NASA TechRise proposal. Attendees will also have an opportunity to ask questions of TechRise educators who recently participated in the winner build experience.

NASA also is seeking volunteers to help judge the entries anticipated from across the country. U.S. residents with expertise in engineering, space, and/or atmospheric research who are interested in reviewing NASA TechRise Student Challenge submissions can apply to be a judge on the Future Engineers website.

NASA's Flight Opportunities program, based at the agency's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, and part of NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD), is leading the NASA TechRise Challenge, with support from the NASA Tournament Lab, also part of STMD. (NASA)

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
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Tel: (670) 234-8591 Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, :
Plaintiff, :
vs. : Civil Action
EDWIN B. TUDELA and No. 21-0169
PATRICIA A. TUDELA, :
and : SECOND
PENTECOSTAL AMENDED
CHURCH OF CHRIST through SUMMONS BY
its representative, : PUBLICATION
Pastor Clariza S. Harde, :
Successor in Interest, :
Defendants. :

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA:

You have been made as Defendants in the suit filed in this Commonwealth Superior Court by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), on its COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE.

You may file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed against you in this action within Twenty-One (21) Days after the date of the last publication of this Summons. You must deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Imwaa Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Amended Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure.

SO ORDERED on this 10th day of August 2022.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

ANTONIO SH. BORIA James M. MENDOLA Henry H. SAN NICOLAS Donald M. HIRSCHNER
Chairman Vice Chairman Member Acting Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguijan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Adoption of Employment Contract (Executive Director)

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

V. ADJOURNMENT

¹Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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"DPL'S ROTA DISTRICT OFFICE SPACE RENTAL"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPAI DRU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
SECRETARY OF DPL

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
DIRECTOR, P.S.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@opticom.com
Website: <https://cnmports.com>



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2022

Opening date: August 15, 2022 Closing date: September 02, 2022

Location: SAIPAN

SALARY

Positions: (1) ARFF General Maintenance PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr. to \$13.70/hr.)
(1) ARFF Mechanic II PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr. to \$15.85/hr.)
(1) ARFF Mechanic III PL 12/1 to 12/12 (\$12.42/hr. to \$21.25/hr.)

Location: TINIAN

SALARY

Positions: (2) General Maintenance I PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr. to \$13.04/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d). Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 02, 2022.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, Vicente D. Palacios, an immediate family member of Ray Demapan Palacios, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Palacios is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Thursday, September 2, 2022.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2022.

/s/JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL PROMO

10% Discount
for Teacher
& Student for Dry
Cleaning Drop-Off
Service of their uniforms
Promo starts
August 19 to
August 31, 2022.

PacificEco

Laundry & Dry-cleaning, Linen Supply

is now offering new & improved
Professional Drop-Off Laundry Services
Self-Service (Coin Laundry) is available

Business Hours: Monday~Sunday: 6:00am ~ 10:00pm
Tel No. (670) 235-0085 & (670) 235-7354

There's nothing more relaxing than seeing your laundry basket empty!



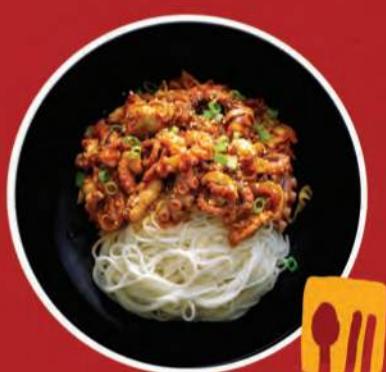
We Accept Private Parties
for Inquiries call
(670) 234-3188
or (670) 235-3313

Business Hours:
MONDAY-SUNDAY
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
4:00 PM- 9:00 PM

Our Local Favorite Menu:

1. Dried Cabbage Soup
(Ugeoji-haejang-guk)
2. Grilled Mackerel
with Soy Bean Paste Soup
(Godeungeo-gui &
Deonjang-jjigae)
3. Noodles Stir Fried
Baby Octopus
(Nakji-somyeon)

**"ONCE
YOU TRY IT,
YOU'LL
LOVE IT!"**



MVA joins PATA Destination Marketing Forum in Thailand

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined other members of the Pacific Asia Travel Association in focusing on sustainable tourism at the PATA Destination Marketing Forum on Aug. 2-4, 2022, in Songkhla, Thailand.

The forum focused on building sustainability through cultural heritage and community-based tourism. The forum included in-depth conversations on critical topics, up-to-date discussions on destination management in the new era of tourism, in-person networking opportunities with other industry professionals.

"The PATA Destination Marketing Forum is organized to help PATA members like the Marianas in marketing and managing responsible tourism



The Marianas Visitors Authority joins the Pacific Asia Travel Association Destination Marketing Forum on Aug. 2-4, 2022, in Songkhla, Thailand. The theme of this year's forum was "Building Back Sustainably through Cultural Heritage and Community-based Tourism."

MVA

growth," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "This aligns very closely with the MVA's 10-Year Strategic Plan Toward Sustainable

Tourism, so it was an excellent opportunity to share best-practices in the industry. The

networking meeting was also very valuable in opening opportunities for the Marianas to expand our tourism markets in

other destinations.

Keynote remarks were on The Best Practices for Destination Marketing and The

Traveler's Priority – Gastronomic Tourism to Asia, and Experience That Inspires. (MVA)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING LOT EXPANSION PROJECT, PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-20**, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***Tinian International Airport Parking Lot Expansion Project, CPA-TA-001-20*** and submitted on or before **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of construction of additional parking spaces including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each DVD. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and should verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian International International Airport Departure Terminal, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. This pre-bid is not mandatory. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Antonio Borja, CPA's Tinian Ports Manager at alborja@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 433-9294.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date, with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Two Hundred Forty (240) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. Bidders shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other local and Federal requirements as outlined in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 20, 2022



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAI PAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-19**, for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Commuter Terminal Building Construction, Project No. CPA-SA-007-19 and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), Friday, AUGUST 26, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a new commuter terminal facility with four (4) airline offices and counter space, restaurant vendor space, restrooms for departure and arrivals, lactating room, office space/counter for U.S. Customs and Border Protection including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. In addition, the contractor is provided an allowance for artwork to be provided at the new commuter terminal. The artwork will be locally themed including, but not limited to, painting, murals, or as determined and coordinated with CPA.

The Project is being financed by funds by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **THREE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$300.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022**, at the CPA Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Edward B. Mendiola, CPA's Deputy Director at edmendiola@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid opening extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who picked up a DVD or attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (540) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government-wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 11, 2022

Childcare providers undergo child development training

Four childcare providers on Saipan participated last Aug. 13, 2022, in child development training on the required health and safety topic, Child Development.

Held at the Evergreen Learning Training Center in Chalan Kanoa and handled by Evergreen Learning's quality care specialist, Maricar I. Pena, the two-hour session on the topic of child development gave participants an understanding of the natural abilities young children are born with that help them make sense of the world they live in. In addition, participants were able to identify the four developmental domains and learn why these domains should be recognized and fostered in a childcare setting through interaction, engagement, and planned activities.

The Childcare Reauthorization Act of 2014 requires that all Childcare Development Fund Program childcare providers must complete preservice training requirements in 12 health and safety topic areas before they are allowed to be left alone to supervise young children. The topic of Child Development meets one out of the 12 required trainings on health and safety. (PR)

CUC ADVISORIES

Power service interruption today, Aug. 19

There will be scheduled power service interruption today, Aug. 19, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

■ Time: 8:30am to 12:30pm

■ Area(s) affected: Koblerville MIHA Housing.

■ Purpose: To install a new ABS and connect the new five span of the three phase overhead primary conductors to the Kiya 2 circuit.

■ Circuit: Kiya 2

■ Water well(s) affected: KV-20 to KV-25 wells, however, no villages affected.

■ Wastewater facility affected: A-12 lift station, however, no villages affected.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

tor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

Power service interruption on Aug. 23

There will be scheduled power service interruption on Aug. 23, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

■ Time: 9am to 1pm

■ Area(s) affected: San Jose (Ghiyeghi Street and Wischiira Way).

■ Purpose: To replace a rotted wooden primary power pole along Ghiyeghi Street in San Jose.

■ Water well(s) affected: None

■ Wastewater facility affected: None

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Four childcare providers on Saipan participate in child development training at the Evergreen Learning Training Center in Chalan Kanoa last Aug. 13, 2022.

PROPERTY FOR SALE



LOT NO. 002 G 300

NOTICE OF AUCTION & SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned counsel, Attorney Robert T. Torres (the auctioneer or his designee), for and on behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, will sell at auction, to the highest bidder, on September 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Alageta Road, Kagman III, Saipan Municipality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described further as follows:

Lot No. 002 G 300, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990 as Document No. 90-1904 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. **Minimum Bid.** Minimum bid for the sale of Lot No. 002 G 300 is One Hundred Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars and 00/100 (US \$120,450.00). All bids shall be in writing and constitute a formal offer from each bidder. Bids may be submitted in advance for said property. Bids may be submitted in advance in writing for the foregoing property. The minimum bid shall be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be submitted in person (at the auction), via email, or in writing by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rtlawgroup.com by 8:00 a.m., Chamorro Standard Time on the auction date. Any person who submits his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). A written bid shall include the bidder's signature, with his/her telephone number, mailing address, and any other contact information. The winning bidder shall be the person to whom the property is confirmed if the bid is accepted. The CNMI Retirement Fund assumes no liability for any errors or omissions as to a bidder's name or identification if that information is not correctly indicated on the bid form. Please contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for a bid form.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A non-refundable guarantee deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) day of the auction sale by the winning bidder, no later than 4:00 pm on that date, by payment to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres. The remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) calendar days from the auction sale. If the tenth calendar day falls on a weekend then the balance shall be due that Monday after the tenth calendar day. All payments shall be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the bidder's rights, title, and interest in the money shall revert to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund reserve the right to change any of the terms conducted and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

5. **Quitclaim Deed to Winning Bidder.** All bidders are notified that the NMI Retirement Funds, the Judgment - Creditors, shall issue a Quitclaim Deed to the Winning Bidder.

6. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are informed and cautioned to inspect the title and property including performing any title research, property inspection, boundary inspection, easement research, and encroachment research on the subject property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranties including but not limited to habitability or fitness for purpose. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer. A copy of the appraisal report and other documents pertaining to the property to be sold at auction are available upon request for review in advance of the auction date.

DATED this 15th day of August 2022.

/s/ _____
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer for
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund



AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission hereby gives notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. However, because of the limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via video conference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes: July 28, 2022

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS:

- Report by the Chairman
- Report by the Executive Director

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- Deferred

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- Munis System – HR Program Training and Implementation Update

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- Renewal of Application for Regular Casino Gaming Vendor License (2-years). Jade Entertainment and Gaming Technologies, Inc. Manufacturer and distributor of casino gaming equipment, devices and/or other related gaming goods. Regular License will expire on 09/13/2022.

- Other New Business Matters

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Consult with Legal Counsel
- Report by the CCC Divisions
- CCC Personnel Matters

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. The Commission, however, reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Chairman



Civil & Structural Engineering • Land & Hydrographic Surveying
Environmental Services • Construction Management

A local firm committed to developing a successful family of local professionals and services to improve the quality of life on Guam and our neighboring islands.

Has an opening for:

STRUCTURAL DESIGN ENGINEER

Minimum Qualifications:

BS Degree in Civil Engineering with structural emphasis
One year of relevant experience preferred

Interested applicants please submit your resume to:
dca@dcaguam.com or
2nd Floor Island Commercial Center, Chalan Pale Arnold
Gualo Rai, Saipan
For more information, please call 670-234-9017
www.dcaguam.com

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Europe's next Ukraine mission is on the home front

Six months into Russia's invasion of its neighbor, the democratic world has come together to support Ukraine's self-defense and impose punishments on Vladimir Putin and his enablers. Yet it hasn't stopped the bloodshed—and Putin is betting that Western unity will crumble as winter sets in and Europeans find themselves squeezed by food and energy prices. Proving him wrong will require Europe's leaders to prepare their publics for a protracted war and increase support to those least able to shoulder its costs.

In both the U.S. and Europe, public opinion has overwhelmingly backed efforts to help Ukraine resist Putin's aggression, but that resolve is likely to wane as the war drags on. In a poll of 10 European countries taken in May, 42% of respondents said their governments pay too much attention to Ukraine relative to their troubles; in Romania and Poland, two frontline countries, the number is more than 50%. Europeans rank the increased cost of living and energy prices at the top of their concerns around the war, alongside nuclear weapon use. In Germany, a Forsa survey in July found support for a boycott of Russian gas, a key means of squeezing the Kremlin, had shrunk to just under one-third of respondents, down from 44% six weeks earlier.

To overcome fatigue with the war effort, Europe's leaders need to clarify their goals in Ukraine. While the priorities of individual governments will inevitably vary, there should be broad agreement around a few core objectives: defending Ukraine's democratically elected leadership and its self-determination; holding Russian forces accountable for war crimes; and avoiding any cease-fire that leaves Ukraine vulnerable to renewed Russian aggression. At a minimum, Europe will need to maintain current sanctions against the Kremlin and continue to provide economic assistance to Ukraine for months to come.

To their credit, European leaders have so far ruled out any easing of sanctions on Russia, but more should be done to respond to public restiveness. Policy makers should



See EUROPE'S on Next Page



Future remote workers need to network more—in college

Tens of millions of workers had to adjust to working remotely at the onset of the pandemic, and over two years later we continue to debate the right balance between in-person and virtual work. Workers and their employers are still experimenting to see what works best, making the most of an environment where we're not likely to be physically present with as many of our colleagues as we were in the past.

That raises the question of how teenagers who plan on careers in business, finance, technology and media should prepare for their own futures in the workplace, when they'll never get the pre-2020 experience when most people came into the office most of the time. And while a tight job market might make it easier than ever to land a job without going to college, for industries where who you know and the strength of your network is a key asset, we're going to find that going to college has even more value than it did before the pandemic.

That's the takeaway from new research published in *Nature* showing where people in different income brackets make friends. Lower-income people tend to make most of their friends in their neighborhoods, while those who are upper-income tend to make most of their friends in college.

Future doctors and lawyers don't need to be convinced about the merits of going to college—they do several years of graduate school on top of undergrad. But for other high-paying professions there's the hope that by skipping college and going straight into the workplace, one can move up the ranks over time via networking in the office and demonstrating one's ability to bosses and managers.

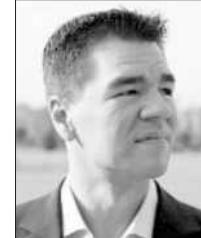
That path was already difficult but has become even more uncertain as white-collar industries adjust to a new normal of hybrid and remote work. Maybe 20-somethings will be eager to show up at offices every day to network and gain skills, but if older and higher-up employees work from home some or most of the time those younger people won't have access to the same amount of relationship-building that workers who came of age before 2020 got.

If building a network and making friends at work are going to become more difficult in the future, then it raises the relative value of places that have demonstrated an effectiveness at doing just that—such as college.

It also suggests that some students should think differently about their priorities when choosing a college. I went to Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. I was attracted to its reputation in engineering and computer science, the small cam-

By CONOR SEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Conor Sen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is founder of Peachtree Creek Investments and may have a stake in the areas he writes about.



pus and student body (my graduating class was around 150), and an academic reputation that was on par with MIT and Caltech.

What I didn't think much about at the time was how the flip side of a small student body is it means a very small alumni network. And whereas MIT and Caltech are well-known nationally, Harvey Mudd isn't well known outside of technology fields or beyond California. As my career migrated from California and the tech industry to, over time, Atlanta and the financial and media industries, I haven't been able to leverage my time at Mudd the way I might have at a different school with a bigger student body and alumni network.

This isn't to say that people shouldn't go to smaller colleges. It's just that network maximization relative to skill development has more value now than it did three years ago.

And, as someone who went to public schools through high school, I cringe when I write this, but it also argues that, if they can afford it, people should give more consideration to private school than they otherwise might have. The same rationale applies here as well: If it's going to be harder to build a network from scratch in the workplace, then forming bonds with elite students and families in high school is a way of ensuring you'll have the network even if the future of work is hopping from remote job to remote job via employment sites like LinkedIn and Indeed.

As an optimist, I'm hopeful that we'll work out the kinks in remote work over time, and that people will still be able to build networks and make friends at work. But I also think back on my own career and doubt that I'd have some of the connections I do if the workplace were significantly remote or even hybrid when I was in my 20's. So it makes sense for young people thinking about their futures to invest more time in their networks in high school and college, because it's just not clear what the workplace will look like when they're building careers of their own.

Friends of Business Summit brought our community together to support small businesses and take pride in our islands

It has been a week since the Saipan Chamber of Commerce with the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network and the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers closed out the first-ever Friends of Business Summit. The event provided small businesses with useful information about the support and resources available to help them grow and maintain their businesses.

It was very exciting to see new faces from throughout our business community. Rather than a traditional lecture style, the presentation stage was set up like a TV talk show with presenters sitting on sofas and having discussions about topics that affect small businesses. This allowed the presenters and audience to feel comfortable talking freely and interacting less formally. The best part is how we all came together as a community to help each other.

As one of the presenters, along with SCC president Joe Guerrero and the rest of the SCC team, I gave an overview of the Chamber, its history, and the benefits of being a member. This was especially helpful for new business owners who might not have known much about the Chamber or the benefits of joining the organization.

Many business owners didn't realize that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce has been serving the business community since 1959. The Chamber was part of the change from a Trust Territory to a Commonwealth. We also offer start-up memberships for new businesses where the membership dues are waived based on their incorporation date. After our presentation, business owners joined us at the SCC table to ask questions about the presentations, and we were able to engage further during our networking



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

session. It was exciting to see new faces from the business community take advantage of the resources available to help them succeed. The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the BOOST Program Grant (Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together) announced by the Governor's Office. The BOOST Program aims to support CNMI businesses and nonprofit organizations to thrive and continue to provide much-needed employment. As we continue to emerge from the COVID-19

pandemic, the BOOST program will surely help start-up businesses get off the ground. Small businesses need all the support they can get because the jobs they provide are essential for the community. I encourage all qualified CNMI businesses to apply at cnmibost.com.

SCC also supports GCEA's Marianas Business Pride program, which will help aid in business beautification. Keeping our business environment clean, presentable, and safe for staff and the community is a top priority. One of the important aspects of any beautification initiative is to get business partners' buy-in to the concept. We will continue to share the vision of CNMI-wide beautification with local business owners and give practical examples of ways they can contribute to this vision. I invite the Chamber's business members to join this amazing program and see how we can work together to make the CNMI a better place to live. Become an MBP Partner by signing up at cnmiecconomy.com.

On behalf of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank the CNMI Department of Labor, the CNMI Bureau of Military Affairs Economic Development Program, the

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By KIMBERLY CAMACHO

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Kimberly Camacho is the new executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Kimberly is also the manager/administrative director for the professional services firm, ARI, Ltd., as well as the board treasurer for Latte Training Academy, which handles the operations of The Next Level Thrift and Consignment Shop.

Saipan Zoning Office, the CNMI Department of Commerce, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, and especially the CNMI Office of the Governor and the congressional office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan for thinking about our small business owners. Allocating a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to help small businesses will have a great impact on our community. Thank you for supporting small businesses!

I'd also like to thank the local business owners and managers from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan who attended the summit and participated in the Small Business Survey. Your valuable insight is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the dedicated team at Saipan World Resort for their support of the event and to our event team from the SCC, CNMI SBDC Network, and the GCEA for putting this summit together. Together, We Can!

For more information visit the GCEA website at cnmiecconomy.com. Engage with the Council on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy) or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

Tourists have more influence on politics and foreign relations than you think

As the United States sends stockpiles of weapons to Ukraine, another transatlantic mobilization is underway. Freed from two years of COVID restrictions, Americans are once again traveling in large numbers. Market observers have predicted a six-fold increase in American tourism to Europe.

If you're wondering what shipments of weapons and plane-loads of tourists have in common, the answer is: Quite a bit. Tourism has long had a way of getting mixed up in international politics.

It is easy to overlook tourism's political importance. The goal is usually to escape news headlines, not study them in detail.

Tourism is also easy to dismiss as a superficial activity involving pre-packaged, staged encounters. The word "tourist" began in the 18th century as a neutral synonym for "traveler," but cul-

tural sophisticates soon turned the word into an insult. Starting in the mid-19th century, self-declared travelers sought to bolster their own cultural status by ridiculing tourists as thoughtless sheep. As popular historian Daniel J. Boorstin put it in his 1962 book, "The Image," the rise of convenient transportation across the oceans rendered travel experiences "diluted, contrived, prefabricated." According to Boorstin, a genuine traveler takes risks and interacts with locals, while tourists merely follow someone else's script.

It's a mistake to stereotype tourists in this way. The historical record shows that tourists are pretty good at thinking for themselves. My research uncovered many examples. Here is one: Exactly 70 years ago, at the height of American McCarthyism and as the Korean War raged and the Iron Curtain divided Europe, the U.S. government decided to coach tourists on how to prepare for encounters with communists and their supporters.

At the time, grassroots communist movements thrived in Western Europe, and many of the waiters and chambermaids serving Americans in France's luxury restaurants and hotels belonged to communist labor unions. So the U.S. Information Agency, working with civic organizations, saturated travel agencies and airlines with a booklet, "What Should I Know When I Travel Abroad?" If Americans met a Western European who wanted to negotiate with Moscow, the booklet suggested a polite but firm response: "It seems to us that in the fight between what is right and what is wrong there just isn't room for neutrality."

Actual tourists, however, didn't follow the script. The USIA interviewed several hundred Americans in their homes after their 1952 trips. Most appreciated the booklet, and 70% claimed they read it cover to cover. Still, the government's diplomatic experts found troubling signs. When it came to explaining something as basic as "America's concern with Communism," the report found Americans "ill-equipped." Alarmingly, the USIA learned that Americans took "a less-determined stand" on European neutralism than their government's recommendation. Fully one-third said that their travels helped them understand European desires for negotiating with the Soviets. One tourist admitted to the USIA, "I couldn't say anything. I could only sympathize."

Indeed, international travel can help build solidarity with other countries—and even instill a sense of which foreign places matter to the United States. When World War I erupted, wealthy Americans who had traveled to Europe before the war became the most vocal advocates for U.S. entry into the conflict. One influential magazine in 1917 offered a lavish 16-page photo-

By CHRISTOPHER ENDY
Los Angeles Times



Christopher Endy teaches cultural and political history at Cal State Los Angeles. He is the author of Cold War Holidays: American Tourism in France. This article was produced in partnership with Zócalo Public Square.

tograph spread showcasing French tourist sites "to help perpetuate ... the bond of romantic affection" linking America to France. During World War II, bestselling books like Elliot Paul's "The Last Time I Saw Paris" bolstered U.S. commitment for fighting Germany with travel writing that described France as part of Americans' own heritage.

What does the political nature of tourism mean for today? For starters, Americans with the ability to travel abroad could think more deliberately about combining politics with pleasure when choosing their destinations. NATO's self-defense clause obliges the United States to defend the safety of countries like Estonia. Next summer, why not skip Paris and visit Estonia's charming capital, Tallinn? Learning about all NATO members could help Americans develop more informed opinions on the risks and rewards of their nation's foreign commitments.

Government officials themselves should give more attention to tourism's ability to sustain those bonds of affection. The president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan, for instance, has called on Taiwan's government to welcome more foreign tourists as a matter of "national security." The Biden administration hasn't focused much on the travel industry or the millions of tourists heading abroad this summer, but the president could encourage them to listen to and learn from our allies.

Washington can also help make foreign travel accessible for more Americans. In an age of polarization, international travel remains bipartisan. According to a 2021 survey, 41% of Democrats and 38% of Republicans reported having a valid passport. But that percentage drops to 21% for Americans with annual incomes under \$50,000. Washington could waive passport fees and bolster exchange programs to help broaden engagement with foreign policy.

Overseas travel has always involved politics alongside leisure and escapism. Presidents and special envoys might dominate the headlines, but ordinary tourists can also shape diplomacy, one vacation at a time.

EUROPE'S

From Page 10

stress that aiding Ukraine is in Europe's self-interest, because allowing Putin to prevail will embolden not only the Kremlin, but other autocrats with revanchist ambitions. And they should counter Russian disinformation about the purported shortcomings of Western policy by doing more to highlight its successes—including weakening Russia's economy, thwarting Putin's effort to replace President Volodymyr Zelenskiy with a puppet leader, and increasing the size and strength of NATO.

It's equally important that Western governments communicate honestly about the potential pain ahead. The impact on disposable incomes has been uneven, but the International Monetary Fund estimates an average cost of living increase for European households of close to 7% of consumption in 2022.

With Russia squeezing gas supplies—and threatening to shut them off altogether—the situation is not improving, and European consumers face a grim winter. The UK is bracing for organized blackouts. While everyone will suffer, governments should focus their assistance on those at greatest risk. Targeted income support for the poor is a more cost-effective approach than tax reductions and price controls, which won't incentivize families to reduce consumption or invest in increased efficiency.

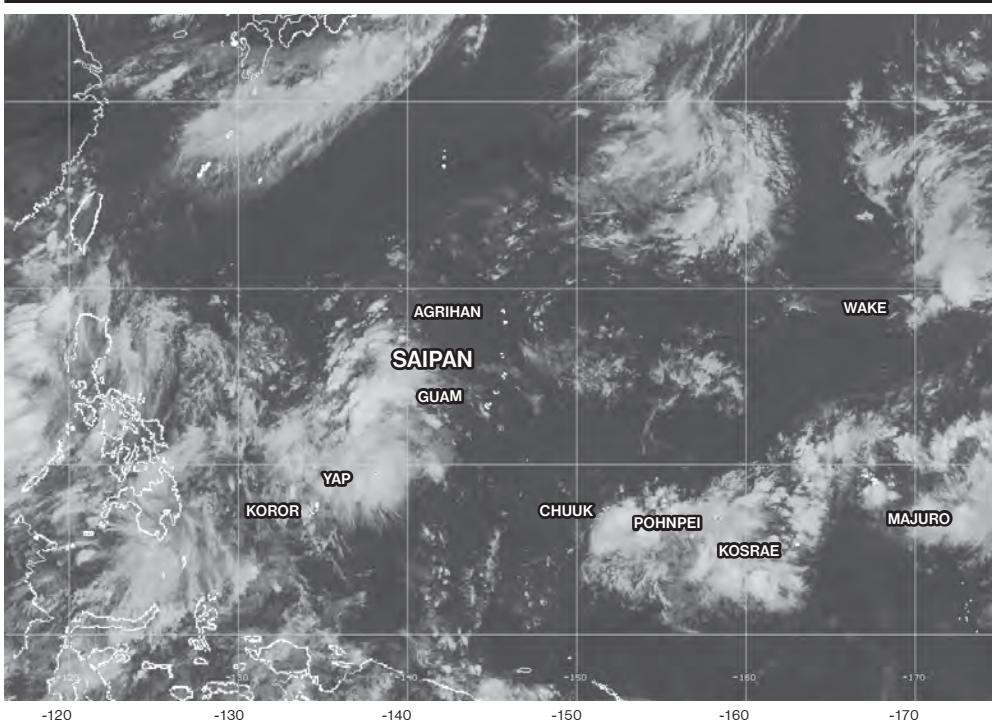
Above all, European leaders must urge patience. The moral outrage and solidarity of Western publics has bolstered Ukraine's morale and helped its forces withstand Russia's onslaught. But the fight to preserve the country's freedom won't end soon.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
88°	78°	88°	77°	88°
77°	88°	77°	88°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:27 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mid and high-level cloudiness is keeping skies mostly cloudy across the Marianas this morning, but radar shows only isolated showers. Winds are gentle from the east and southeast, and combined seas are indicated around 4 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87°	/	81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85°	/	79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:19 PM	11:55 PM
Saturday	-	1:11 PM	-
Sunday	12:39 AM	2:04 PM	-
Monday	1:26 AM	2:56 PM	-
Tuesday	2:16 AM	3:46 PM	-

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AROUND THE GLOBE

		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Rain	63°	/	57°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	78°	/	72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	89°	/	80°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	89°	/	75°
London	Cloudy	78°	/	66°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86°	/	65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Melbourne	Showers	59°	/	54°
Miami	Thunderstorms	89°	/	79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	79°	/	65°
Osaka	Rain	85°	/	76°
Paris	Thunderstorms	83°	/	63°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	82°	/	75°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	95°	/	72°
Salem	Scattered Thunderstorms	87°	/	70°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	74°	/	57°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	70°
Tokyo	Scattered Thunderstorms	85°	/	76°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	83°	/	65°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

12:14 AM	High Tide	1.86
7:38 AM	Low Tide	0.46
2:32 PM	High Tide	1.57
7:25 PM	Low Tide	1.23

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM					

Marianas Southern Airways opens Guam route tomorrow

Marianas Southern Airways, the Northern Mariana Islands' newest airline, will launch direct services between Saipan and Guam this Saturday, according to company president, Keith Stewart.

"We are delighted to provide travelers more choice on the Saipan to Guam route," said Stewart. The airline will initially offer two daily 50-minute services, with the first departing Guam at 12:30pm and arriving on Saipan at 1:20pm. The second service will leave Guam at 6:40pm and arrive on Saipan at 7:30pm. Flights from Saipan to Guam will be at 11:10am and 5:15pm.

"As more aircraft join the fleet in the next month, we will offer up to five daily flights between the two islands," Stewart said.

Bill Giles, MSA's vice president CNMI/Guam, stated, "Our new twin-engine Tecnam aircraft bring state-of-the-art safety and reliability to our passengers. These aircraft are new off the production line and offer individual air-conditioning controls, a cup holder, and a USB charge port at each seat."

Giles said that Marianas Southern Airways plans to add another three or four Tecnam airplanes to the fleet over the next year, "which will provide the opportunity to offer direct flights between Rota and Guam and Tinian and Guam, as well as adding more fre-

quency to our schedules."

Stewart pointed out that reliable air transportation is vital for the regional economy. It provides the city-pair connections that serve as virtual bridges between the islands to support a healthy flow of key economic activities. Air service facilitates links between businesses, governments, and people; enabling trade, investment, tourism, and travel—not to mention critically important health care accessibility for people living in rural communities.

MSA's comprehensive route network is essential to the long-term success of the airline. The initial flight schedule offers over 90 weekly flights serving Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. "Importantly, within the next three months we will offer same-day connectivity to Saipan with United's Honolulu-Guam flight, thereby avoiding an unnecessary overnight stay in Guam and, through joint venture partner Southern Airways interline agreement with United Airlines, the ability to make a seamless reservation from Tinian, Rota, or Saipan to anywhere in the United network," said Giles.

Bookings can be made by visiting www.iflymariannes.com or through the company's toll-free booking center number 1 800 757 4780

Marianas Southern Air-

ways is the CNMI's newest airline, a joint venture between Saipan's MP Enterprises and Southern Airways Express, one of America's largest regional airlines. It operates the all-new Tecnam P2012 Traveler aircraft, known as the world's most advanced twin-engine turbocharged piston aircraft. (MSA)

File photo shows Gov. Ralph DLG Torres stepping aboard the inaugural flight of Marianas Southern Airways going to Tinian last Aug. 12, 2022.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES



World of Hyatt rated best hotel rewards program

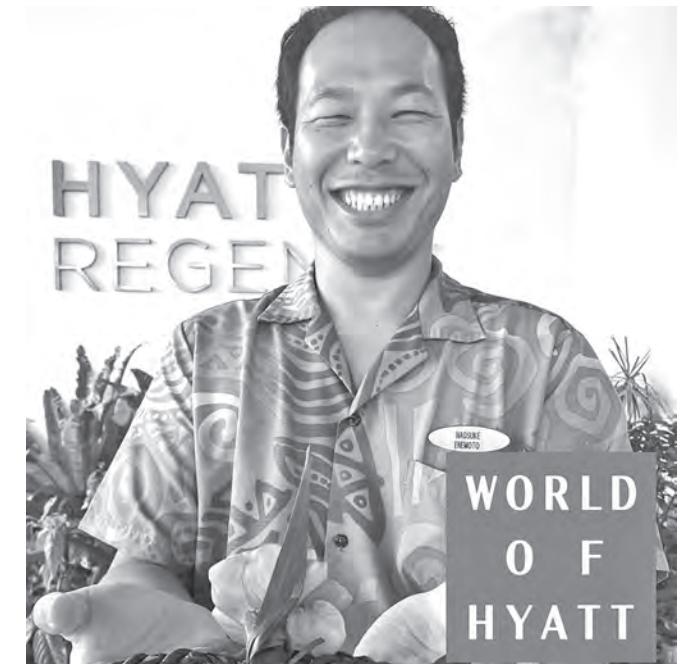
World of Hyatt, a rewards program of the Hyatt chain of hotels that Hyatt Regency Saipan is a part of, was given the No. 1 ranking as the Best Rewards program by U.S. News and World Report.

"We get closer to our members by listening and creating personal connections that focus on their wellbeing and allow them to be cared for on their own terms. Congratulations to our World of Hyatt team and the entire Hyatt family. Thank you for your continued commitment to our loyalty members," said Hyatt chief commercial officer Mark Vondrasek.

Meanwhile, World of Hyatt Bonus Journeys is back with a promo that double rewards just like that. Travelers can earn points in two ways. First, registered members can earn double points on qualifying stays of two or more nights at over 1,100 participating Hyatt hotels globally, including participating MGM Resort destinations, Small Luxury Hotels of the World hotels, and Lindblad Expeditions.

In addition to earning double points for qualifying two nights or more stays, for the first time, each Tier-Qualifying Night completed at more than 65 participating Inclusive Collection resorts will count as two nights instead of one.

Members can experience one of the world's largest port-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

World of Hyatt, a rewards program of the Hyatt chain of hotels that Hyatt Regency Saipan is a part of, was given the No. 1 ranking as the Best Rewards program by U.S. News and World Report.

folios of all-inclusive resort brands and take advantage of details on the promotion, visit hyatt.com/bonusjourneys.

Hyatt Regency Saipan was established in the CNMI in 1981 and is the first and only international hotel on the island. For more information about World of Hyatt, call (670) 234-1234 and ask for Front Desk or go to our website saipan.regency.hyatt.com. (Hyatt Regency Saipan)

OIA funds study of mitigation options for Sargassum seaweed influx in USVI

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced that \$499,796 will be awarded to the University of the Virgin Islands to study and analyze the best ways to mitigate the growing influxes of Sargassum seaweed to the territory.

On Sunday, July 24, U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Albert Bryan Jr., declared a state of emergency to mitigate the impact of the unusually high amounts of Sargassum seaweed piling up on USVI shores and having a negative impact on water-production capabilities on St. Croix.

"President Biden has ordered federal assistance to supplement the territory's response efforts to emergency conditions related to the unprecedented amounts of Sargassum seaweed influx to the territory," said assistant secretary Carmen G. Cantor. "We are working with [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] and other federal partners to ensure that the funds we provide today will complement other federal support to the Virgin Islands."

The University of the Virgin Islands has proposed to collect and evaluate the foundational information and develop the tools necessary for a territorial Sargassum mitigation plan. The funds will be used to prepare an oceanographic method and modeling project through monitoring and documenting Sargassum accumulation and assessing water and environmental quality in key coastal locations. Results will be published and made available to territorial and federal agencies and the public to aid in the development and implementation of Sargassum management strategies for the USVI.

On July 25, 2022, President Joe Biden issued a response from the White House, approving the use of federal funds to support mitigation of the Sargassum emergency in the territory and authorized FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts, which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance. (OIA)



Cantor

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced \$3,802,436 for the Brown Tree Snake Control program in fiscal year 2022 funding as administered through the Technical Assistance Program.

Of that amount, \$450,000 will be going to the CNMI's brown tree snake program.

"The brown tree snake remains a challenge to Guam and we appreciate the funding support that Congress continues to provide," said assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. "Mitigat-

ing the threat that the brown tree snake continues to pose for Guam's ecological and economic systems remains a priority as well as preventing spread to the CNMI, Hawai'i, and the Micronesia region."

Fiscal year 2022 funding provided for the brown tree snake control program was divided among the territorial and state governments and federal partners which are Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawai'i, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Interior as follows:

\$1,205,100	U.S. Department of Agriculture - APHIS Wildlife Services for the Guam BTS Interdiction Program
\$ 921,465	USGS Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center for rapid-response activities and related work
\$ 450,000	CNMI Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Program for the CNMI BTS Interdiction Program
\$ 376,659	U.S. Department of Agriculture - APHIS National Wildlife Research Center
\$ 375,000	Hawai'i Department of Agriculture for the Hawai'i Detector Dog Program
\$ 304,212	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for BTS program coordination
\$ 100,000	Guam Department of Agriculture, Aquatic and Wildlife Resources for the Kontra I Kulepbla, Challenge the Snake Project!
\$ 70,000	Guam Power Authority for the continuation of the BTS Impact Research and Discovery Project
\$3,802,436	Total fiscal year 2022 funding for Brown Tree Snake

For more information about the Brown Tree Snake program, visit the OIA website at www.doi.gov/oia. (OIA)

OIA awards \$3.8M to counter brown tree snakes in Guam

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced \$3,802,436 for the Brown Tree Snake Control program in fiscal year 2022 funding as administered through the Technical Assistance Program. Of that amount, \$450,000 will be going to the CNMI's brown tree snake program.

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Business

US to hold trade talks with Taiwan in new show of support

HUALIEN, Taiwan (AP)—The U.S. government will hold talks with Taiwan on a wide-ranging trade treaty in a sign of support for the self-ruled island democracy China claims as its own territory.

The announcement Thursday comes after Beijing held military drills that included firing missiles into the sea to intimidate Taiwan following this month's visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-level member of the U.S. government to visit Taiwan in 25 years.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's military held a drill Thursday with missiles and cannon simulating a response to a Chinese missile attack.

President Joe Biden's coordinator for the Indo-Pacific region, Kurt Campbell, said last week trade talks would "deepen our ties with Taiwan" but stressed policy wasn't changing. The United States has no diplomatic relations with Taiwan, its ninth-largest trading partner, but maintains extensive informal ties.



The U.S. Trade Representative's announcement made no mention of tension with Beijing but said "formal negotiations" would develop

trade and regulatory ties, a step that would entail closer official interaction.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war and have

no official relations but are bound by billions of dollars of trade and investment. The island never has been part of the People's Republic of China, but the ruling Communist Party says it is obliged to unite with the mainland, by force if necessary.

Being allowed to export more to the United States might help Taiwan blunt China's efforts to use its status as the island's biggest trading partner as political leverage. The mainland blocked imports of Taiwanese citrus and other food in retaliation for Pelosi's

Fed saw evidence of a slowing economy at its last meeting

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve officials saw signs that the U.S. economy was weakening at their last meeting but still called inflation "unacceptably high" before raising their benchmark interest rate by a sizable three-quarters of a point in their drive to slow spiking prices.

In minutes from their July 26-27 meeting released Wednesday, the policymakers said they expected the economy to expand in t

he second half of 2022. But many of them suggested that growth would weaken as higher rates take hold. The officials noted that the housing market, consumer spend-

Seattle CEO who cut his pay so workers earned \$70K resigns

SEATTLE (AP)—A Seattle CEO who announced in 2015 that he was giving himself a drastic pay cut to help cover the cost of big raises for his employees has announced his resignation.

Dan Price, the embattled CEO of credit card processing company Gravity Payments, resigned Wednesday, The Seattle Times reported.

Price stunned his 100-plus workers when he told them he was cutting his roughly \$1 million salary to \$70,000 and using company profits to ensure that everyone there would earn at least that much within three years.

"My No. 1 priority is for our

ing, business investment and factory production had decelerated after having expanded robustly in 2021.

Slower growth, they noted, could "set the stage" for inflation to gradually fall to the central bank's 2% annual goal, though it remained "far above" that target. But the policymakers made clear that for now, they intend to continue raising rates enough to slow the economy.

In both June and July, the Fed sought to curb high inflation by raising its key rate by an unusually large three quarters of a percentage point twice. At their meeting last month, the policymakers said

other legal trouble. His brother Lucas sued him in 2015, alleging that Dan Price was overpaying himself. A King County judge ruled that Dan had not violated Lucas' rights as a minority shareholder.

Allegations that Price had abused ex-wife Kristie Colon also surfaced that year. A Bloomberg report recounted an October 2015 TEDx talk given by Colon during which she described being beaten and waterboarded by her ex, without naming Price. Price told Bloomberg those events "never happened."

Chief operating officer Tammi Kroll will take over a CEO.

Amazon testing TikTok-style feed on its app, AI firm says

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon appears to be getting the TikTok bug, joining other companies seeking to hold consumers' attention by introducing replicas of the popular social platform.

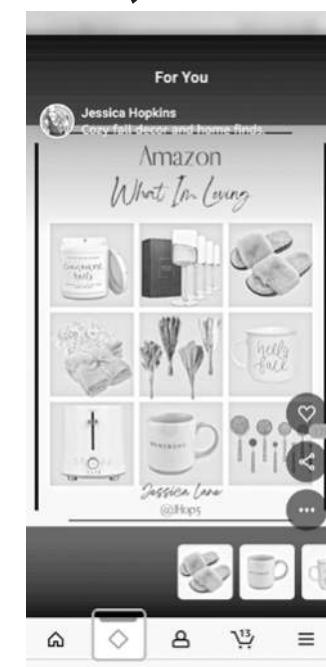
The e-commerce giant has been testing a feed on its app that enables shoppers to scroll through TikTok-like photos and videos of products posted by other users.

Using the feature, called Inspire, customers can like, save and share posts of products, and purchase items directly from the feed, according to Watchful Technologies, an Israeli-based artificial-intelligence firm that analyzes apps and has tracked the feature.

The test doesn't mean Amazon will roll out the widget to the public in its current form—or at all. Alyssa Bronikowski, an Amazon spokesperson, declined to say if the company has plans to introduce the feature to all its customers. In a statement, Bronikowski said the company is "constantly testing new features to help make customers' lives a little easier."

The Wall Street Journal first reported on the test. Citing an anonymous source, the Journal also said the company is testing the feature among a small number of Amazon employees.

Amazon often experiments



This August 2022 screenshot provided by Watchful.ai shows a feed Amazon is testing on its app that enables shoppers to scroll through TikTok-like photos and videos of products posted by other users. AP

with new features, sometimes even targeting its tests to specific regions. Amid regulatory pressure about its private-label business, the company had been testing how to identify its brands in search results by tagging them with badges such as "Amazon brand" or "Exclusive

AP Visitors review new Asus computer products at the Computex trade show in Taipei, Taiwan, Tuesday, June 2, 2015.

Aug. 2 visit.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's government had no immediate reaction to the announcement.

U.S.-Chinese relations are at their lowest level in decades amid disputes over trade, security, technology and Beijing's treatment of Muslim minorities and Hong Kong.

The USTR said negotiations would be conducted under the auspices of Washington's unofficial embassy, the American Institute in Taiwan.

Xi's government says official contact with Taiwan such as Pelosi's one-day visit might embolden the island to try to make its decades-old de facto independence permanent, a step Beijing says would lead to war.

Washington says it takes no position on the status of China and Taiwan but wants their dispute settled peacefully. The U.S. government is obligated by federal law to see that the island has the means to defend itself.

to Amazon," the research firm Marketplace Pulse discovered earlier this year.

In its current form, the experimental TikTok-like feed mostly shows photos, said Daniel Buchuk, a researcher with Watchful Technologies. But if the feature is rolled out, Buchuk suspects the feed will be video-heavy as Amazon sellers create content to make it more engaging for customers.

The corporate parents of Google and Facebook, the two biggest sellers in digital advertising, already have been pushing their own TikTok clones in bids to keep eyeballs glued to their services so they can continue to boost their revenue.

Google's YouTube video service rolled a "Shorts" feature limited to clips of a minute or less last year in the U.S. after initially testing it in India during 2020. By June of this year, Google said YouTube Shorts was attracting more than 1.5 billion logged-in users each month, although analysts believe TikTok's popularity is undercutting ad sales at the video site.

Those concerns were elevated by Google's latest quarterly results, which revealed YouTube's year-over-year growth in ad sales had slowed to its slowest pace since public disclosures of the site's revenue began.

Nation

Media to ask judge to release Trump search warrant affidavit

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Attorneys for many of the nation's largest media companies will try to persuade a federal magistrate judge on Thursday afternoon to make public the affidavit supporting the war-

rant that allowed FBI agents to search former President Donald Trump's Florida estate last week.

The Associated Press, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, the broadcast TV net-

works, CNN and others want U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce E. Reinhart to release the affidavit over the objection of the U.S. Justice Department, which says its investigation of Trump's handling of "highly classified material"

would be compromised.

The media companies argue the affidavit's release would help the public determine if the Justice Department had legitimate reasons for the search or if it was part of a Biden administration vendetta against Trump, as the former president and his backers contend. Trump, in a Truth Social post last week, called for the release of the unredacted affidavit in the interest of transparency.

"The matter is one of utmost public interest, involving the actions of current and former government officials," wrote attorney Carol Jean LoCiero,

who is representing the Times and others. "President Trump decried the search as an 'assault that could only take place in Third World Countries,' asserted agents 'even broke into my safe,' and otherwise challenged the validity of the search."

Justice Department attorneys argued in a court filing that its investigation into Trump's handling of "highly classified material" is ongoing and that the document contains sensitive information about witnesses.

The filing by Juan Antonio Gonzalez, the U.S. attorney in Miami, and Jay Bratt, a top

Justice Department national security official, says making the affidavit public would "cause significant and irreparable damage to this ongoing criminal investigation."

"If disclosed, the affidavit would serve as a roadmap to the government's ongoing investigation, providing specific details about its direction and likely course, in a manner that is highly likely to compromise future investigative steps," they wrote.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Trump's attorneys had not indicated on the court's docket that they plan to take part in the hearing.

Giuliani says he 'satisfied' obligation with Ga. grand jury



Rudy Giuliani arrives at the Fulton County Courthouse on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022, in Atlanta. AP

ATLANTA (AP)—Rudy Giuliani said Wednesday that he had "satisfied his obligation" after facing hours of questioning Wednesday before a special grand jury in Atlanta as a target of an investigation into attempts by former President Donald Trump and others to overturn his 2020 election defeat in Georgia.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Giuliani said Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis ended his appearance by saying he had "satisfied his obligation under the subpoena."

"So I was very happy that I satisfied my obligation," he said.

Speaking upon his return to

New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, Giuliani didn't provide any additional details about his appearance or testimony, including the type of questions he was asked. He was pushed through the terminal in a wheelchair alongside his lawyer, Bob Costello.

Giuliani's attorneys tried to delay his appearance before the special grand jury, saying he was unable to fly due to heart stent surgery in early July. On Wednesday, Giuliani said "my plane ride was OK," noting that it was his first since the procedure.

Costello said the session, which lasted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a half-hour lunch,

"went very well. No disputes." Costello did not immediately address whether Giuliani answered questions or declined.

"Everyone was a lady or gentleman. Professional," he wrote in a text message, adding that Willis came out to greet Giuliani and his lawyers at the end.

The investigation by the Democratic prosecutor has brought heightened scrutiny to the desperate and ultimately failed efforts to overturn Joe Biden's 2020 election win. It's one of several investigations into Trump's actions in office as he lays the groundwork for another run at the White House in 2024.

ACROSS THE NATION

Fire hits vacant Grossinger's hotel, once a Catskills jewel

LIBERTY, N.Y. (AP)—A fire consumed a building at the site of the long-closed Grossinger's resort, once among the most storied and glamorous hotels in New York's Catskills. In its heyday after World War II, Grossinger's drew hundreds of thousands of vacationers a year, many of them Jewish. The resort had a 27-hole golf course, indoor and outdoor pools, a nightclub, two kosher kitchens and a 1,500-seat dining room. It drew crooners like Eddie Fisher and has been cited as an inspiration for the 1987 movie "Dirty Dancing." The fire broke out Tuesday evening in

a three-and-a-half story building on the old hotel property. Firefighters who responded to the scene had to cut through a gate and were hampered by overgrowth and concrete barriers. An excavator knocked down the structure after the fire was out, according to a Facebook post by the Liberty Fire Department.

Miami officer shot pursuing robbery suspect dies days later

MIAMI (AP)—A 29-year-old police officer who was shot in the head while trying to stop a robbery suspect in Miami has died, officials said. Det. Cesar Echaverry was shot Monday night as he and other officers closed in on a suspect wanted for

an earlier robbery in nearby Broward County, police said. His family had remained by his side at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital. "Officer Echaverry died in the line of duty while serving & protecting our community," Miami-Dade Police Director Alfredo Ramirez tweeted Wednesday evening. "Our law enforcement family will continue to stand beside & support the Echaverry family through this difficult time." Police said Echaverry and other officers began pursuing a white vehicle involved in an earlier armed robbery when its driver tried to flee, ramming into police vehicles and a civilian vehicle whose three occupants were hospitalized in stable condition.



Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office

Guma' Hustisia / Imwal Aweewe / House of Justice

P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702 • Website: www.NMJudiciary.gov

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDING JUDGE

Re-Announcement # JVA22-035

SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position will work under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge in the Superior Court on Saipan. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assists and provides guidance to all divisions and offices of the Superior Court regarding novel issues and pertinent administrative duties;
- Researches, develops, and/or enhances treatment courts and assists treatment court managers with their duties and responsibilities;
- Monitors terms and conditions, requirements, and compliance with scope of work for various Superior Court programs funded by various sources;
- Oversees and supervises the Superior Court divisions and offices operations in accordance with the Presiding Judge's instruction;
- Coordinates and confers legal matters with the Office of General Counsel on issues related to administration, Superior Court, and the judges' chambers;
- Communicates with Superior Court judges regarding Superior Court matters;
- Attends Bench-Bar meetings on behalf of the Presiding Judge;
- Formulates, recommends and implements programs and reviews internal policies and procedures involving the activities and functions of the Superior Court and its divisions;
- Tracks caseload activity, reviews enhancements to trial court practices and federal grants, and works with division managers in reaching set goals;
- Contacts attorneys and parties regarding cases;
- Prepares briefs, legal memoranda, statement of issues involved, opinions and judgment for review by the judge, including appropriate suggestions or recommendations;
- Compiles references on laws and decisions necessary for legal determinations;
- Confers with judges concerning legal questions, construction of documents and granting of orders;
- Represents the Presiding Judge in meetings, conferences, and other government functions as assigned by the Presiding Judge and/or when the Presiding Judge is unavailable;
- Conducts periodic meetings with Division Managers and Judges' Judicial Assistants and reports of same to the Presiding Judge;
- Assists the Presiding Judge in the preparation of the annual budget of the Superior Court and justifications thereof;
- Promotes the understanding of the objectives and methods of Superior Court policies and procedures;
- Attends court proceedings to hear oral arguments and record necessary case information;
- Assists in community outreach programs, as directed by the Presiding Judge or his or her designee;
- Reviews recent laws and developing legal matters;
- Oversees Superior Court law clerks and their case timeline;
- Assists the Presiding Judge in implementing Judiciary initiatives and goals as outlined in the Judiciary Strategic Plan;
- Drafts proposed legislation as instructed;
- Periodically reviews and edits policies, procedures, and standard operating procedures that effect the Superior Court;
- Coordinates and confers with the Office of Court Administration on matters surrounding the Superior Court and its operations as it relates to Court Administration divisions; and
- Completes other duties assigned by the Presiding Judge.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Special Assistant to the Presiding Judge must have a Juris Doctor degree from an ABA accredited law school or a Master's degree in Criminal Justice, Administration, or other related field. Strong legal research and writing skills are essential. Candidate must be able to work in a fast-paced environment and work under pressure. Candidate must also:

- be organized and attentive to detail;
- be able to multi-task and meet deadlines;
- be able to follow instructions;
- be a team player and have excellent communication and interpersonal skills; and
- use independent judgement and proper handling of confidential information.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with the use of general office software including but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and be operate to operate a court vehicle.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.¹

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is position serves under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$60,000 - \$75,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma' Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818 | Cell. (670) 783-8592
hr.judiciary@NMJudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.nmjudiciary.gov>

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.

- (a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024
- (b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011
- (c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217
- (d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
- (e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223. While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Asia

US to hold trade talks with Taiwan, island drills military

HUALIEN, Taiwan (AP)—The U.S. government will hold talks with Taiwan on a wide-ranging trade treaty in a sign of support for the self-ruled island democracy China claims as its own territory.

The announcement Thursday comes after Beijing held military drills that included firing missiles into the sea to intimidate Taiwan following this month's visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-level member of the U.S. government to visit Taiwan in 25 years.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's military held a drill Thursday with missiles and cannon simulating a response to a Chinese missile attack.

President Joe Biden's coordinator for the Indo-Pacific region, Kurt Campbell, said last week trade talks would "deepen our ties with Taiwan" but stressed policy wasn't changing. The United States has no diplomatic relations with Taiwan, its ninth-largest trading partner, but maintains extensive informal ties.

The U.S. Trade Representative's announcement made no



Taiwanese soldiers operate a Oerlikon 35mm twin cannon anti-aircraft gun at a base in Taiwan's southeastern Hualien county on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022. AP

mention of tension with Beijing but said "formal negotiations" would develop trade and regulatory ties, a step that would entail closer official interaction.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war and have no official relations but are bound by billions of dollars of trade and investment. The island never has

been part of the People's Republic of China, but the ruling Communist Party says it is obliged to unite with the mainland, by force if necessary.

Being allowed to export more to the United States might help Taiwan blunt China's efforts to use its status as the island's biggest trading partner as political leverage. The mainland blocked imports of Taiwanese citrus and other food in retaliation for Pelosi's Aug. 2 visit.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's government had no immediate reaction to the announcement.

U.S.-Chinese relations are at their lowest level in decades amid disputes over trade, security, technology and Beijing's treatment of Muslim minorities and Hong Kong.

The USTR said negotiations would be conducted under the

auspices of Washington's unofficial embassy, the American Institute in Taiwan.

Xi's government says official contact with Taiwan such as Pelosi's one-day visit might embolden the island to try to make its decades-old de facto independence permanent, a step Beijing says would lead to war.

Washington says it takes no position on the status of China and Taiwan but wants their dispute settled peacefully. The U.S. government is obligated by federal law to see that the island has the means to defend itself.

"We will continue to take calm and resolute steps to uphold peace and stability in the face of Beijing's ongoing efforts to undermine it, and to support Taiwan," Campbell said during a conference call last Friday.

China takes more than twice as much of Taiwan's exports as the United States, its No. 2 foreign market. Taiwan's government says its companies have invested almost \$200 billion in the mainland. Beijing says a 2020 census found some 158,000 Taiwanese entrepreneurs, professionals and others live on the mainland.

China's ban on imports of citrus, fish and hundreds of other Taiwanese food products hurt rural areas seen as supporters of President Tsai Ing-wen, but those goods account for less than 0.5% of Taiwan's exports to the mainland.

Beijing did nothing that might affect the flow of processor chips from Taiwan that are needed by Chinese factories that assemble the world's smartphones and consumer electronics. The island is the world's biggest chip supplier.

16 dead, 36 missing in flash flood in western China

BELJING (AP)—At least 16 people have died and 36 others are missing after a sudden rainstorm in western China triggered a landslide that diverted a river and caused flash flooding in populated areas, Chinese state media said Thursday.

In the Buller region, Mayor Jamie Cleine told reporters that the rain had so far been lower than forecast but there was more rain on the way.

AP

"Right across the district I believe we have got away relatively unscathed," Cleine said. "A few people that did choose to self-evacuate last night have been told today that it's reasonably safe, if they feel OK, to head back to their properties today to check them out while we have this lull."

and drought as the worst since record-keeping started 60 years ago.

Emergency authorities described the flash flooding in Qinghai's Datong county as a "mountain torrent." Such torrents generally result from heavy squalls in mountainous areas. Water running down the mountain can turn gullies or streams into raging rivers, catching people by surprise.

Seven people died last weekend from a mountain torrent in southwestern China's Sichuan province.

Elsewhere in Sichuan and other provinces, crops are wilting and factories have been shut down as a drought cut hydropower supplies and high temperatures raised electricity demand.



A road is washed away in Nelson, New Zealand, Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022. AP

Heavy rain pelts New Zealand, forcing hundreds to evacuate

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Heavy rain continued to pelt New Zealand on Thursday, causing further disruptions and road closures from a storm that has already forced hundreds of people to evacuate their homes.

Residents in the northern part of North Island found themselves isolated after landslides, fallen trees and floodwaters blocked highway access. The stormy weather also forced some schools to close, airlines to cancel flights and business to shutter.

The storm sunk at least one sailboat near Auckland and caused a home to slip down into a gully in the town of Tāhunau. About 230 homes in the

town of Nelson were evacuated Wednesday and remained off-limits overnight after the Maitai River flooded. The military patrolled the area overnight.

Resident Robin Reichert told news outlet Stuff that she was "utterly shocked" when her street turned into a raging torrent. "Within minutes it's a river," she said. "That's how fast

it happens."

Another 160 homes in the town of Westport were also temporarily evacuated with residents later allowed to return.

Roads throughout the nation were closed due to flooding and landslides.

In the Buller region, Mayor Jamie Cleine told reporters that the rain had so far been lower than forecast but there was more rain on the way.

"Right across the district I believe we have got away relatively unscathed," Cleine said. "A few people that did choose to self-evacuate last night have been told today that it's reasonably safe, if they feel OK, to head back to their properties today to check them out while we have this lull."

China is facing both heavy rains and flooding in some parts of the country this summer and extreme heat and drought in other regions. State media has described the heat

World

Zelenskyy to host Lviv talks with UN chief, Turkish leader

LVIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is due to host the U.N. chief and Turkey's leader Thursday for talks on the recent deal to resume Ukraine's grain exports, the volatile situation at a Russian-occupied nuclear power plant and efforts to help end the nearly six-month-old war.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres arrived Wednesday in Lviv, near Ukraine's border with Poland, where he will meet Zelenskyy and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is making his first trip to Ukraine since the war started.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said that among other issues, Guterres will discuss "his overall efforts to do what he can to essentially lower the temperature as much as possible with the various authorities."



In this image provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, right, and U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres leave a news conference during their meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday, April 28, 2022. AP

been hit particularly hard by supply shortages and high prices. Even though ships are now leaving Russia and Ukraine, the food crisis hasn't ended.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters this week that Guterres' trip to Ukraine will allow him "to see first-hand the results of an initiative ... that is so critically important to hundreds of millions of people."

Dujarric added that he expects "the need for a political solution" to the war to be raised in Thursday's talks.

He said the three leaders will also discuss the situation at the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine, Europe's largest, which Moscow and Kyiv have accused each other of shelling.

WORLD BRIEFS

Canada doctor facing 3 more murder charges in patient deaths

TORONTO (AP)—A Canadian doctor accused of killing a patient last year was charged Wednesday with three more counts of first-degree murder. Ontario Provincial Police said the new charges against Dr. Brian Nadler relate to the deaths of 80-year-old Claire Briere, 79-year-old Lorraine Lalonde and 93-year-old Judith Lungulescu. Police declined to provide more details, including when and where the three died, citing the ongoing investigation. Nadler, 35, was initially charged with first-degree murder in March 2021 in the death of 89-year-old Albert Poidinger at the Hawkesbury and District General Hospital. Police said at the time that they were investigating the doctor in connection with several other deaths at the hospital. Nadler was released on bail in July of last year and arrested on the new charges Wednesday.

Nigerian electricity union strike causes nationwide blackout

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Striking electricity workers shut down Nigeria's power grid Wednesday, plunging the West African nation's more than 200 million citizens into darkness for several hours, officials said. The nationwide blackout began in the afternoon moments after the

union called a strike to protest non-payment of benefits for former members and other issues related to working conditions, the Transmission Company of Nigeria said. "Several 330kV transmission lines and 33kV feeder lines across the power system network had been switched off by the union members resulting in ... multiple voltage escalations at critical stations and substations," company spokeswoman Ndidi Mbah said in a statement.

Palestinians: Teenager killed in clashes with Israeli troops

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—A Palestinian teenager was killed and dozens were wounded during clashes with Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian medics said early Thursday. The Palestinian Red Crescent emergency service said Waseem Khalifa, 18, was killed and 35 Palestinians were wounded in the northern West Bank city of Nablus. It was not immediately clear what triggered the violence. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Israel has carried out near-daily arrest raids in the West Bank aimed at what it says are militant networks following a string of deadly attacks inside Israel in the spring. The raids often set off confrontations with stone-throwing Palestinians or exchanges of gunfire with militants.

Last month, Turkey and the U.N. helped broker an agreement clearing the way for Ukraine to export 22 million tons of corn and other grain stuck in its Black Sea ports since Russia invaded Feb. 24. A separate memorandum

between Russia and the U.N. aimed to clear roadblocks to shipments of Russian food and fertilizer to world markets.

The war and the blocked exports significantly exacerbated the global food crisis because Ukraine and Russia

are major suppliers.

Grain prices peaked after Russia's invasion, and while some have since returned to prewar levels, they remain significantly higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Developing countries have

Israel closes Palestinian rights groups it labeled terrorist

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Israel raided the offices of several Palestinian advocacy groups it had previously designated as terrorist organizations, sealing entrance doors and leaving notices declaring them closed, the groups said Thursday.

Israel has claimed some of these groups had ties to the militant Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a secular, left-wing movement with a political party as well as an armed wing that has carried out deadly attacks against Israelis. The groups deny Israel's claim. Shawan Jabarin, director

of al-Haq, one of the targeted groups, confirmed that forces raided the office but said they are still examining whether any document had been confiscated.

"They came, blew up the door, got inside, and messed with the files," he told The Associated Press.

A day earlier, Israel Defense Minister Benny Gantz's office restated its rationale for the government's approach to the groups, saying "the organizations operate under the guise of performing humanitarian activities to further the goals of the PFLP terrorist organization, to

strengthen the organization and to recruit operatives."

Rights defenders have described Israel's moves against the groups as part of a decades-long crackdown on political activists in the occupied territories. In July, nine EU member states said Israel hasn't backed up its allegations and that they will continue working with the targeted groups.

"These accusations are not new and Israel failed to convince even its friends," Jabarin said.

Most of the targeted organizations document alleged human rights violations by Israel as well as the Palestinian Au-

Ukrainians flee grim life in Russian-occupied Kherson

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—It was early one morning when life under Russian occupation became too much for Volodymyr Zhdanov: Rocket fire aimed at Ukrainian forces struck near his home in the city of Kherson, terrifying one of his two children.

His 8-year-old daughter "ran in panic to the basement. It was 2 o'clock in the morning and (she) was really scared," said Zhdanov, who later fled the city on the Black Sea and has been living in Kyiv, the capital, for the past three weeks.

Kherson, located north of the Crimean Peninsula that was annexed by Moscow in 2014, was the first city to fall after Russia's invasion on Feb. 24. The port remains at the heart of the conflict and Ukraine's efforts to preserve its vital access to the sea. For Russia, Kherson is a key point along the land corridor from its border to the peninsula.

Zhdanov and others who made the hazardous journey to escape from the region describe increasingly grim conditions there, part of a heavy-handed effort by Russia to

establish permanent control.

The streets in the city, which had a prewar population of about 300,000, are mostly deserted. Rumors swirl about acts of armed resistance and the sudden disappearance of officials who refuse to cooperate with the Russian authorities.

Occupation forces patrol in markets to warn those trying to use the Ukrainian currency, the hryvnia, in transactions. Pro-Moscow officials have been installed in local and regional governments, as well as on the police force. Workers

authority, both of which routinely detain Palestinian activists.

The groups reportedly raided include al-Haq, a veteran, internationally respected Palestinian rights group, Addameer, which advocates for Palestinian prisoners, Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, Union of Agricultural Work Committees, and Bisan Center for Research and Development.

Jabarin said "neighbors and strangers" who were nearby during Thursday's raid had opened the office in Ramallah as soon as the Israeli forces left, and that al-Haq's staff were inside and resuming their work.

at various municipal services face pressure to cooperate with Russian managers. Most schools have closed.

Supplies of essential goods are uneven, halting most commercial activity. There are shortages of medicines and spikes in the price of other commodities.

Many residents had been determined to hold out as long as possible for a promised Ukrainian counterattack that hasn't materialized.

"There was physical danger in the city, because there were many soldiers," Zhdanov said.

Off The Wall

How much is Zuckerberg worth? One card collector could find out



This photo provided on Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022, shows Allie Tarantino holding a baseball card featuring a very young Mark Zuckerberg grinning in a red jersey and gripping a bat. For 30 years Tarantino kept the baseball card filed it away in his basement, not knowing Zuckerberg would someday become a household name.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—When camp counselor Allie Tarantino was flipping through a magazine years ago, he came upon a familiar name: Mark Zuckerberg. He rifled through boxes of memorabilia in his basement, running his fingers over old photos, newspapers and bus maps before finding a baseball card featuring a very young Zuckerberg grinning in a red jersey and gripping a bat.

Three decades later, Tarantino is hoping that a signed baseball card featuring one of the richest men in the world will bring a fortune when it is put up for auction next month.

"It's like my version of a midlife crisis. I'm 50 years old—what am I going to do with this?" Tarantino joked.

As told by Tarantino—who still works summers at Elmwood Day Camp in Westchester, New York—Zuckerberg,

then age 8 or 9, offered the card he'd had printed as a parting gift at the end of camp 30 years ago.

"As somebody who collects things, it's always really difficult to part with whatever you have in your collection. But I've always been like weirdly curious about how the public would react to something that's like this that's a weird combination of pop culture and memorabilia," he said.

He called it "a virtual steel cage match," with bidding on the physical card in U.S. dollars and the NFT done in Ethereum blockchain currency.

Fishler said he's uncertain of the value of the items, considering they aren't the usual kinds of memorabilia put up for auction.

In recent years, there's been lots of interest in collectors' items involving athletes. Rare baseball cards have gone for millions of dollars. A mint-condition baseball card of Mickey Mantle is expected to fetch \$10 million, perhaps more, when it is sold at auction later this month.

The card will also be auctioned off as a digital collector's item—a so-called NFT, or non-fungible token, that has become a popular way to own memorabilia.

Zuckerberg posted about the auction Thursday on Instagram, partly as a way to promote NFT technology in general, but also to help promote NFTs across his company's platforms.

Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram,

has recently launched support for digital collectibles.

"We're going to auction off the card against a one-of-a-kind NFT of the card," said Stephen Fishler, founder of ComicConnect, which is auctioning off the items.

Fishler said he's uncertain of the value of the items, considering they aren't the usual kinds of memorabilia put up for auction.

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Tire chalking was used in approximately 4,800 Saginaw parking tickets, which cost \$15 or \$30, depending on whether they were paid on time, Taylor's attorney, Phil Ellison, said in a court filing.

Saginaw stopped chalking tires in 2019.

"We cleaned clock. We did very well. Nobody had ever done this before," Ellison said Tuesday.

But he said he was still trying to understand why the judge ordered only \$1 per chalking as a remedy. An appeal by either side is possible.

Chalking tires illegal, judge says, but city gets big break

DETROIT (AP)—A Michigan city violated the U.S. Constitution by chalking tires to enforce parking limits, but it won't be forced to refund thousands of tickets in the class-action case, a judge said.

Saginaw must only pay vehicle owners "nominal damages" of \$1.00 for each marking, U.S. District Judge Thomas Ludington said Monday.

"The basic problem is that chalking is relatively harmless," he said, noting there was no damage to cars.

Saginaw staff marked tires and subsequently wrote tickets if they returned to find a vehicle was parked too long.

After five years of litigation, including two appeals to a higher court, Ludington ruled

Science & Technology

Do spiders sleep? Study thinks they may snooze like humans

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a question that keeps some scientists awake at night: Do spiders sleep?

Daniela Roessler and her colleagues trained cameras on baby jumping spiders at night to find out. The footage showed patterns that looked a lot like sleep cycles: The spiders' legs twitched and parts of their eyes flickered.

The researchers described this pattern as a "REM sleep-like state." In humans, REM, or rapid eye movement, is an active phase of sleep when parts of the brain light up with activity and is closely linked with dreaming.

Other animals, including some birds and mammals, have been shown to experience REM sleep.

But creatures like the jumping spider haven't gotten as much attention so it wasn't known if they got the same kind of sleep, said Roessler, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Konstanz in Germany.

Their findings were published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Roessler and her team dug into the sleep question after she discovered the spiders hanging at night from threads of silk in their lab containers. She had recently scooped up some jumping spiders to study, a common species with a fury



This photo provided by Daniela C. Roessler in August 2022 shows a jumping spider (E. arcuata) exhibiting leg curling during a REM sleep-like state. A study published on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022, suggests that jumping spiders show signs of sleep cycles, similar to humans and some animals.

AP

brown body and four pairs of big eyes.

"It was just the most unusual thing I've ever seen," Roessler said of the suspended spiders.

The research showed the spiders' overnight movements looked a lot like REM in other species, she said—like dogs or cats twitching in their sleep.

And they happened in regular cycles, similar to sleep patterns in humans.

Many species similar to spiders actually don't have movable eyes, which makes it hard to compare their sleep cycles, explained study co-author Paul Shamble, an evolutionary biologist at Harvard University.

But these jumping spiders are predators that move their

retinas around to change their gaze while they hunt, Shamble said. Plus, the young spiders have a see-through outer layer that gives a clear window into their bodies.

"Sometimes as a biologist, you just get really, really lucky," Shamble said.

The researchers still have to figure out if the spiders are technically sleeping while they're in these resting states, Roessler said. That includes testing whether they respond more slowly—or not at all—to triggers that would normally set them off.

Critters like the jumping spider are very far from humans on the evolutionary tree. Jerry Siegel, a sleep researcher who was not involved with the study, said he's doubtful that the spiders can really experience REM sleep.

"There may be animals that have activity in quiet states," said Siegel, of the UCLA Center for Sleep Research. "But are they REM sleep? It's hard to imagine that they could be the same thing."

But Barrett Klein, an entomologist at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse who was also not involved with the study, said it was exciting to find REM-like signs in such a distant relative. Many questions remain about how widespread REM sleep is and what purpose it might serve for species, he said.

REM sleep is "still very much a black box," Klein said.

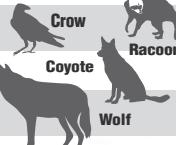
Science Matters

A 10-foot (3 m) hammerhead shark passes under a swimmer near Miami.

Coastal cities attract big predators

The world's coastlines are rapidly urbanizing, and how increased human presence may impact species living in the ocean is not fully understood.

Wildlife and urban habitats



Urban exploiters: Species that thrive in cities, often rely on garbage for food

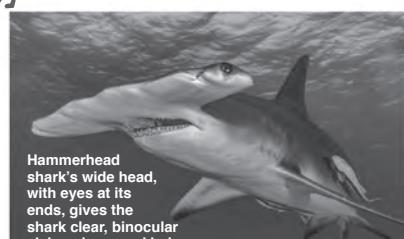
Urban adapters: Make some use of city areas but largely rely on natural areas

Urban avoiders: Sensitive to human disturbance, stay away from humans

Beach city's urban sharks

A new study tracked the movements of bull, nurse and great hammerhead sharks near Miami, Florida.

Rather than being repelled by city noise, chemicals and lights, the sharks lingered nearby, often close to shore, at all times of day



Hammerhead shark's wide head, with eyes at its ends, gives the shark clear, binocular vision above and below

Great hammerhead shark Largest ever recorded was 20 ft.

Source: University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science; Marine Ecosystem Progress Series journal; Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Salman Rushdie attacker ‘surprised’ the author survived

MAYVILLE, N.Y. (AP)—The man charged with stabbing Salman Rushdie on a lecture stage in western New York said in an interview that he was surprised to learn the accomplished author had survived the attack.

Speaking to the New York Post from jail, Hadi Matar said he decided to see Rushdie at the Chautauqua Institution after he saw a tweet last winter about the writer's planned appearance.

“I don't like the person. I

don't think he's a very good person,” Matar told the newspaper. “He's someone who attacked Islam. He attacked their beliefs, the belief systems.”

Matar, 24, said he considered late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini “a

great person” but wouldn't say whether he was following a fatwa, or edict, issued by Khomeini in Iran in 1989 that called for Rushdie's death after the author published “The Satanic Verses.”

Rushdie has denied involvement

in the attack. Matar, who lives in Fairview, New Jersey, said he hadn't had any contact with Iran's Revolutionary Guard. He told the Post he had only read “a couple pages” of “The Satanic Verses.”

Buffalo the day before the attack and then took a Lyft to Chautauqua, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) away.

He bought a pass to the Chautauqua Institution grounds and then slept in the grass the night before Rushdie's planned talk.

Matar was born in the U.S. but holds dual citizenship in Lebanon, where his parents were born. His mother has told reporters in interviews that Matar came back changed from a visit to see his father in Lebanon in 2018. After that, he became moody and withdrew from his family, she said.

Brad Pitt foundation reaches settlement over Louisiana homes

BATON ROUGE (AP)—Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation and homeowners of the houses built by the program, in an area of New Orleans among the hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina, have reached a \$20.5 million settlement.

The Times-Picayune The New Orleans Advocate reported Wednesday that, pending approval by a judge, each of the program's 107 homeowners will be eligible to receive \$25,000 as reimbursement for previous repairs of the shoddy homes. Under the settlement reached Tuesday evening, the remaining money is to be divided up according to the condition of each of the structures.

The settlement represents a major milestone in the long-run-

ning saga of homes beleaguered by leaks, rot and other defects.

In 2007, two years after Katrina devastated Louisiana's most populous city, the Hollywood celebrity founded the futuristic housing development organization. The goal was to replace lost housing in the city's flood-ruined Lower Ninth Ward with 150 avant-garde dwellings that were storm-safe and energy-efficient. The homes were made available at an average price of \$150,000 to residents who received resettlement financing, government grants and donations from the foundation itself.

The project was praised initially, but 10 years and more than \$26 million later, construction had halted. Residents

reported sagging porches, mildewing wood and leaky roofs.

Make It Right acknowledged flaws in the architecture at least twice. First, in 2015, lawyers representing the organization sued the manufacturer of an ecologically friendly, water-resistant wood for \$500,000, when the product proved to be no match for south Louisiana weather.

In 2018, Make It Right lawyers sued its own managing architect over what it said where millions of dollars in design defects. In 2021, the organization also sued its former executive director along with the former treasurer and other officials, accusing them of mismanaging the project.

As residents' complaints

mounted, they filed a class-action lawsuit against Make It Right in 2018. The suit alleged that many of the houses were poorly built with inadequate materials. According to the suit, some of the homes suffered from rain leakage that caused rot, structural damage and mold. The suit also catalogued faulty heating, problems with cooling and ventilation systems, electrical malfunctions and plumbing mishaps.

Tuesday's settlement papers point out that responsibility for the defects to the homes has been “vigorously” contested. Attorney Ron Austin, who represented residents in the suit against Pitt and his charitable organization, framed the outcome in David versus Goliath terms.

Anne Heche's death ruled accidental after fiery car crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Anne Heche died from inhalation injury and burns after her fiery car crash and the death was ruled an accident, according to coroner's results released Wednesday.

Heche, 53, also had a fractured sternum caused by “blunt trauma,” according to information on the website of the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner.

A full autopsy report was still being completed, the coroner's office said.



Heche

The Emmy-winning film and television actor was removed from life support Sunday at a burn center. She was injured when her car jumped a curb and smashed into a West Los Angeles home on Aug. 5. The car and the home burst into flames. Only Heche was injured.

Heche suffered a “severe

anoxic brain injury” caused by a lack of oxygen, according to a statement released last week on behalf of her family and friends.

She was declared brain-dead but was kept on life support until her organs could be donated.

Detectives looking into the crash had said narcotics were found in a blood sample taken from Heche. However,

police ended their investigation after she was declared brain-dead.

The coroner's office listed Aug. 11 as her date of death.

Heche first came to prominence on the NBC soap opera “Another World” in the late 1980s before becoming one of the hottest stars in Hollywood in the late 1990s. She was a constant on magazine covers and in big-budget films opposite actors including Johnny Depp and Harrison Ford.

A\$AP Rocky pleads not guilty to firearm assault charges

LOS ANGELES

(AP)—Rapper A\$AP Rocky has pleaded not guilty to felony assault with a firearm charges stemming from a 2021 confrontation in Hollywood.



Rocky

He is accused of drawing a gun and firing it twice in the direction of a former friend during an argument in Hollywood in November 2021. He pleaded not guilty Wednesday to two counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm and ordered to return to court on Nov. 2.

Los Angeles Superior Court Victoria B. Wilson ordered the rapper, whose legal name is Rakim Athelaston Mayers, to stay away from the former friend.

Mayers and two other men

fled after he fired the gun, police said. He was first arrested in the incident at Los Angeles International Airport on April 20, and was released on bail the same day.

A member of the Harlem hip hop collective A\$AP Mob, A\$AP Rocky first made his mark in music with the single “Peso” in 2011. His 2013 debut album, “Long. Live. A\$AP,” went to No. 1 on the Billboard 200, as did its 2015 follow-up, “At. Long. Last. A\$AP.” He has been nominated for two Grammy Awards.

He is in a relationship with Rihanna, and the two had a son in May. Both have become as known for fashion trendsetting as for their music.

Online friendship starting to wear out after dustups

DEAR ABBY: I made a friend six years ago on social media. We have never actually met in person, but we have stayed in touch. She began contacting me on a daily basis about a year ago, which was great at the time, because I took a few years off work to care for my baby. It was lovely to converse with another adult as a stay-at-home parent. She's a very nice lady who is old enough to be my mother but, unfortunately, suffers from severe agoraphobia. She rarely leaves her house. Her window to the world is her cellphone.

Her family keeps their distance from her because she has a tendency to be judgmental, condescending -- even sometimes downright rude. She's been directing this sort of behavior at me lately. I have always tried to be patient and compassionate because she can be so sweet. I feel sorry for her because she doesn't have anyone in her life. However, I'm growing very tired of her negativity and constant complaints.

I have just returned to work and have had less time to converse with her. I feel guilty about it because I'm actually happier the less we talk. I still care for her, but I want less contact with her. What can I do without hurting her feelings or gradually “ghosting” her?

CHANGE OF HEART

DEAR CHANGE: Not only have you had a change of heart,

but you have also had a change of circumstances because you are back at work. Tell the woman, as kindly as possible, that you are UNABLE to continue talking as long or as often as you did before. If she responds in a rude, judgmental or condescending way, tell her the truth —that you refuse to be treated that way— and end the call. If you do, either her behavior will change, or SHE will ghost YOU.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Every year, my brother and his wife have come to visit us. They stay for two weeks. The first words out of my sister-in-law after “hello” were, “I'm not doing a thing because I'm on vacation!” My response was, “We are all retired, so every day is a vacation.”

Abby, she is rude, nags my brother and asks him if he has showered, changed his underwear, etc. She treats him like a child, and “reminds” everyone else how smart she is. When they visit, she expects everyone to wait on her because of the distance they've traveled. We feel three days is long enough. How do I tell them without hard feelings this is not an acceptable length of time to stay?

NO SERVANT IN NORTH DAKOTA

DEAR NO SERVANT: May I be frank? With someone like your self-entitled sister-in-law, you should EXPECT hard feelings as you roll back the welcome mat. Tell your broth-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

er and his wife that while you love them, you are unable to accommodate them for longer than three days and, if they wish to stay in your city longer than that, they will need to arrange other accommodations. Then batten down the hatches, prepare for a storm and stick to your guns without arguing or explaining further.

■ ■ ■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



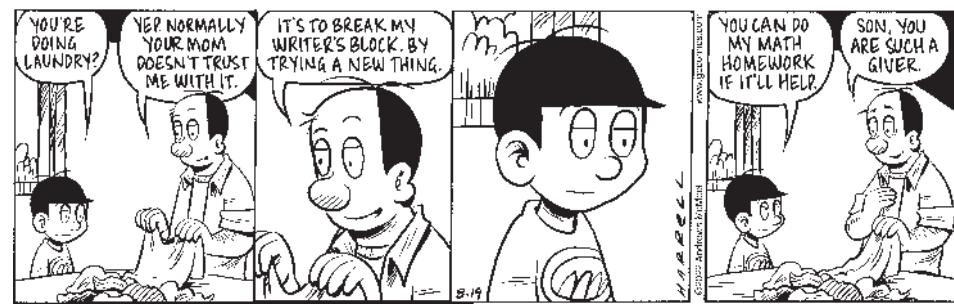
By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

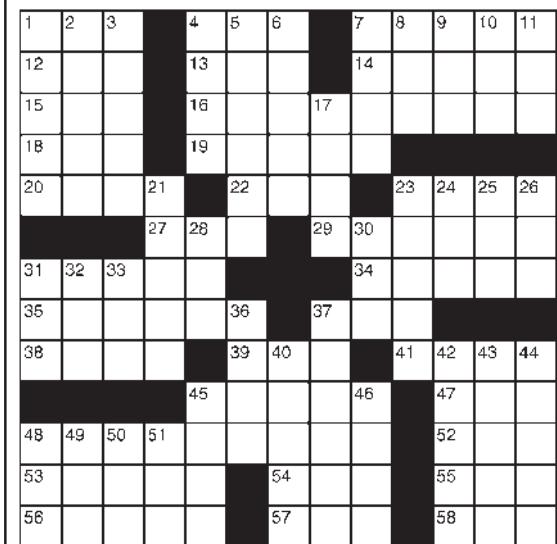


By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Iota	DOWN	23	Formal		
1 Solo of "Star Wars"	38	Tennis score	1 Wizard Potter	24	Fuss		
4 Dandy guy	39	Author Umberto	2 Sports venue	25	Singer Tormé		
7 Sir's counterpart	41	Slightly open	3 Tennis star	26	Season opener?		
12 Coach Par-seghian	45	Stand-in Japanese	4 Type choice	28	Dept. store inventory		
13 Lab eggs	47	sash	5 Go too far	30	Luau souvenir		
14 Mountain crest	48	"Absolu-	6 Macadamized	31	Transcript no.		
15 Roulette bet	not!"	lately not!"	7 Earth's neighbor	32	"Awesome!"		
16 "Absolu-	52	Eggy quaff	8 Common verb	33	"Entourage"		
lately not!"	53	Love, Italian-style	9 "Lion" actor	36	Olympian queen		
18 Genetic letters	54	Indian lentil dish	Patel	37	Freight train unit		
19 Long journeys	55	Citric beverage	10 Chowed down	40	Home-buyer's option		
20 Informal pronoun	56	Already	11 Sea, to Henri	42	Singer Nick		
22 JFK's predecessor	57	Magic, on score-boards	17 Stretches (out)	43	Home		
wet	58	French salt	21 Bolshevik leader	44	Star in Orion's foot		
23 Slightly wet				45	"Close one!"		
27 Id counter-part				46	Holler		
29 Small burger				48	"Terrif!"		
31 Majestic				49	Tan		
34 Paris school				50	Heavy weight		
35 Diocese part				51	-Magnon		
Solution time: 25 mins.							
Yesterday's answer 8-19							



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Manny Jacinto, 35; Christina Perri, 36; Matthew Perry, 53; John Stamos, 59.

Happy Birthday: Look past any problems standing between you and what you want. Once you know your destination, it will be easier to map out which course will get you where you want to go with the least amount of interference. A broad view of the possibilities and a good intuition will be your saving grace and your ticket to success. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 28, 31, 33, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Dream on, and you'll devise a plan that excites you. Explore new ways to get ahead. Stick to people who are helpful and encouraging. A chance to try something new will inspire you to expand your knowledge and skills. ★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Open your doors to friends and family. Indulge in laughter and pamper yourself. Don't get angry if someone doesn't agree with you. Give everyone the right to an opinion. A kind word or gesture will have more of an effect than criticism. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Spend more time at home and less time trying to socialize in competitive situations. Taking time out for yourself will help you gain perspective on what's important to you. Don't make a hasty decision, even if someone is pressuring you for answers. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Handle personal matters quickly. Update documents that are about to expire or handle institutional issues before they close for the week-

end. Leave nothing to chance, and don't neglect your responsibilities. Minimize how much you spend or try to fit into your day. ★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Spend time primping and updating your look. You'll gain confidence if you look and feel your best. Look for a suitable place to invest money. Building your savings will lower your stress and encourage you to live a simple and affordable lifestyle. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Connect with people who enjoy the same things you do and discuss life, love and what's on your bucket list. Attending a function that offers information and insight into something you want to pursue will set you on a unique path. 5 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Changes to your living arrangements will turn out better than anticipated. Pay attention to what others want, and offer incentives that help you get something in return. Sharing your feelings with someone you love will rectify a misconception that surfaces. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change will put you in an awkward position. Size up what's going on and what you need to do to reach your goal. Take care of responsibilities, and address issues that can stand between you and what's important to you. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Embrace what life offers. Share time and space with people who want the same things you do, and don't settle into situations that make it difficult for you to take advantage of what makes you happy. Invest in personal progress. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your ideas on paper. Don't leave shared expenses or money matters incomplete. Sort through any differences you have with others, then offer solutions. Recognize what's important to someone you love, and do your best to accommodate. Romance is favored. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Speak from the heart and share your long-term plans. Make changes at home that will improve a relationship and encourage you to do more as a unit. Love is in the stars, and a promise for a brighter future is within reach. 5 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Speak up, share your ideas and focus on how to use your attributes to bring in more cash. A change to where or the way you live will boost your morale and give you the confidence to live life your way. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are wise, complicated and precise. You are imaginative and productive.

●: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7								
	9	1		2	8		7	
4		5			3			
3	6		1		7			
	1				4			
2	5	4		8				
9		1			2			
7	8	2		3	6			
					5			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	4	1	8	3	6	5	7	2
8	6	3	5	2	7	4	9	1
2	7	5	4	1	9	6	8	3
3	1	6	7	8	4	2	5	9
7	8	2	9	5	3	1	6	4
4	5	9	1	6	2	7	3	8
5	9	7	2	4	8	3	1	6
1	3	4	6	9	5	8	2	7
6	2	8	3	7	1	9	4	5

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TONY SIRICO (1942-2022)

Solution: 7 letters

E	P	W	O	S	Z	W	E	X	P	O	S	E	D	C
J	T	O	I	N	R	A	M	R	A	K	A	L	O	
G	U	A	L	T	I	E	R	I	N	A	L	W	A	O
A	R	R	K	I	N	S	G	R	U	J	L	E	M	K
N	N	T	Y	S	C	E	A	N	A	O	E	R	I	
G	C	A	M	E	O	E	S	C	I	K	F	C	R	E
S	O	F	V	I	N	N	Y	S	A	F	D	A	I	R
T	S	T	A	X	I	G	A	N	P	R	O	L	C	I
E	Q	W	T	I	R	N	S	R	A	E	O	L	A	F
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LeBron inks 2-year, \$97.1M deal with Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James has agreed to a two-year, \$97.1 million contract extension through the 2024-25 season with the Los Angeles Lakers, his agent announced Wednesday.

Klutch Sports CEO Rich Paul said the league-maximum deal makes James the highest-paid player in NBA history. His new deal includes a player option that would keep the second-leading scorer in NBA history with the Lakers past his 40th birthday in December 2024.

The 37-year-old James is headed into the final year of his most recent contract with the



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) goes up high to dunk the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis, on May 15, 2021.

Lakers, who signed the four-time NBA Most Valuable Play-

er and four-time league champion in July 2018. The new deal

means the 18-time All-Star will make \$46.7 million this season.

Barring injury, James is likely to surpass Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the NBA's career scoring king this winter. James and the Lakers also still hope to be in contention for another title if James and Anthony Davis can return at full health after an injury-plagued 2021-22 ended without a playoff appearance.

James' new deal syncs with Davis' most recent contract extension with the Lakers, allowing both to leave the Lakers or to negotiate new deals in 2024. Both superstars are represented by Klutch.

James' recommitment to the

Lakers also silences persistent talk of his possible departure as a free agent or in a trade. James hasn't appeared to be going anywhere on social media or in his public appearances, and he praised the hiring of new Lakers coach Darvin Ham.

James has missed significant portions of the season due to injury in three of his four years with the Lakers. He was largely healthy in the elongated 2019-20 season when the Lakers won the franchise's 17th NBA title in the Florida bubble, and he has been every bit the dominant player of his prime when at full strength in the ensuing two years.

Although his contract status inspired plenty of offseason chatter, James seemed unlikely to relocate after spending the past four seasons of his 19-year career with the storied Lakers. His family is settled in Los Angeles, where his eldest son, Bronny, is a 17-year-old senior and college basketball prospect playing at Sierra Canyon High School in Chatsworth.

James has occasionally said he intends to play on the same team with Bronny when his son reaches the NBA. Although plenty of obstacles remain between the younger James and the NBA, he could be draft-eligible in the summer of 2024.

NBA schedule has less miles, and LeBron chasing more history

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

By mid-January, LeBron James could be the NBA's scoring king.

The NBA schedule was released Wednesday, all 1,230 games that are set between Oct. 18 and April 9 taking place in four countries with Mexico and France playing host to regular-season contests along with the U.S. and Canada.

There are the usual highlights — Stephen Curry and Golden State will raise another title banner on opening night, as is the NBA's customary perk for champions; a five-game slate of games on Christmas yet again; the traditional games in Atlanta and Memphis as part of the leaguewide commemoration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year brought a twist, with Election Day now a newly created off day in the NBA.

And now that the list of games is out, the numbers show that James could catch Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in the final two weeks of January — assum-

ing James doesn't have to miss games and scores at his usual pace. James enters this season No. 2 on the all-time list, 1,325 points behind Abdul-Jabbar.

"We have obviously a very large ecosystem of league office staff, team staff, players, arena staff that are truly driving to this process," said Evan Wasch, who, along with Gene Li and Tom Carelli, is on the NBA team of executives who build the schedule. "So, we are just one small piece."

Wasch, Li and Carelli spent weeks putting a 1,230-piece jigsaw puzzle together, mindful of things like team wishes to have games on certain dates, total miles traveled, even carbon footprint.

The big headline from their work: Teams will travel a bit less, about 5% fewer miles in the air on average over last season.

The NBA made that happen by adding to the instances of teams having no travel between road games, something that'll happen 88 times this season — up 66% from last season. There are 55 instances of teams play-

ing consecutive road games against the same opponent, and 33 instances of teams playing two games in a row against the two teams from Los Angeles or New York.

Add it all up, and NBA teams will combine to fly about 50,000 fewer miles this season.

"There's a player health component, and there's also a sustainability component there," Wasch said. "That's a 5% decrease from where we've been. We'll take it."

Among the countless storylines entering the season is James, and his pursuit of more NBA history.

If he continues scoring at his typical pace — 27 points per game for his career, 30 points per game last season for the Los Angeles Lakers — he would need between 44 and 49 games to pass Abdul-Jabbar.

Games 44 through 49 for the Lakers fall in the second half of January. They happen to be at home for most of that stretch, a coincidence since it precedes the annual spot in the calendar where

the Lakers and Los Angeles Clippers need to vacate their home arena while it gets ready to play host to the Grammy Awards.

Other revelations from the schedule:

BACK-TO-BACKS

Minimizing the instances of having games on back-to-back days is still a point of emphasis for the NBA, and the average number of them dipped another 1.5% this season — the average going from 13.5 per team last season to 13.3 per team this season.

Since 2014, the average is down 31.1%. Teams faced an average of 19.3 of them per season then.

No team has fewer than 12 back-to-backs this season. No team has more than 15.

ATTENDANCE RECORD

The San Antonio Spurs' magic number on Jan. 13 — 62,047.

If the Spurs' game against Golden State that night draws at least that many fans, it'll set an NBA regular-season record.

The Spurs will play that game in San Antonio's Alamodome, not their typical arena, and it'll be set up to accommodate at least 65,000 fans.

The biggest crowd at an NBA regular-season game is 62,046, who gathered to watch Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls meet the Atlanta Hawks at the Georgia Dome on March 27, 1998.

The biggest crowd in league history was 108,713, that group gathering for the 2010 All-Star Game at the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys in North Texas.

The Alamodome record for an NBA game is 39,554 on June 18, 1999, when New York visited San Antonio for Game 2 of that year's NBA Finals.

INTERNATIONAL REACH

The NBA has scheduled 45 games that will be shown live in prime time across Europe, the Middle East and Africa on Saturdays and Sundays.

Many of those games feature at least one prominent international player, including

two-time reigning MVP Nikola Jokic of Denver, two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of Milwaukee, reigning scoring champion Joel Embiid of Philadelphia and All-NBA first-teamer Luka Doncic of Dallas.

INTERNATIONAL GAMES

San Antonio has a "home" game against Miami in Mexico City on Dec. 17. Detroit has a "home" game with Chicago in Paris on Jan. 19.

WELCOME BACK

Some prominent NBA names missed the entirety of last season for a variety of reasons. Among those who were in that group and are expected back this year, assuming they're ready to go when their teams play Game 1: Kawhi Leonard and John Wall, now teammates with the Clippers, would open their season Oct. 20 — a "road" game against the Lakers.

Denver's Jamal Murray would return Oct. 19 at Utah. Brooklyn's Ben Simmons and New Orleans' Zion Williamson also would be in line to come back Oct. 19 when th

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Donaldson slugs walk-off slam, sends Yankees past Rays, 8-7



N E W
Y O R K
(A P) —

Josh Donaldson hit a walk-off grand slam in the 10th inning as the clock struck midnight, and the struggling New York Yankees salvaged an 8-7 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday night to avoid a three-game sweep.

Gleyber Torres singled leading off the 10th off Jalen Beeks (2-2) and Anthony Rizzo walked before Donaldson lifted a one-strike, 97 mph fastball to the short porch in right field.

Aroldis Chapman (2-3) gave up three runs in the top of the 10th for New York, which entered having lost three straight and 12 of 15.

But the Yankees finally got some help from their offense, scoring more than three runs in a game for the first time since Aug. 8. New York had totaled one run in its past three games.

Although the Yankees are 9-16 since the All-Star break, their AL East lead moved back to 10 games over Tampa Bay and Toronto. New York has led the division by double digits for all but two days since June 13.

Mets 9, Braves 7

In Atlanta, Brett Baty homered his first time up in the big leagues, Starling Marte went deep twice and New York snapped Atlanta's eight-game winning streak.

The NL East-leading Mets jumped to a 6-1 lead and barely made it stand up to push their advantage over the Braves back to 4 1/2 games.

Vaughn Grissom had a two-run single in the ninth, but Trevor May retired Ronald Acuña Jr. on a flyout to the warming track to end the game.

Baty, the 12th overall pick in the 2019 draft, came up for the first time in the second with a runner aboard and the Mets ahead 2-0 on back-to-back homers in the first off Jake Odorizzi (4-5). Baty connected on his very first swing in a New York uniform, becoming the fifth player in Mets history to homer in his first at-bat.

Atlanta knocked out nemesis Matt Scherzer (9-2) in the seventh. He was charged with four runs over 6 1/3 innings, allowing three hits and three walks while striking out eight.

Robbie Grossman made a game of it, launching a three-run homer that brought the Braves within a single run. That was as close as they got. Pete Alonso's two-run single highlighted a three-run ninth that provided some breathing room.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 1

In Toronto, George Springer broke a scoreless tie with a pinch-hit RBI single in the seventh inning, and Toronto beat Baltimore behind a stellar effort by Ross Stripling.

Springer's liner to center was career hit No. 1,000, and Toronto poured it on from there. Santiago Espinal followed Springer with a two-run double, and Alejandro Kirk capped the Blue Jays' six-run seventh with another two-run double.

Toronto snapped a five-game losing streak against Baltimore and won for the third time in 11 games. It broke through against the Orioles' bullpen after Stripling carried a perfect game into the seventh.

Stripling retired his first 18 batters before Cedric Mullins singled to center on the first pitch of the seventh. He matched a season high by striking out seven in 6 1/3 innings.

Mariners 11, Angels 7

In Anaheim, Calif., Cal Raleigh homered twice, Eugenio Suárez and Jesse Winker each hit a two-run shot, and Seattle completed a three-game sweep of Los Angeles.

Shohei Ohtani had a two-run homer, a triple, two singles and four RBIs for the Angels.

George Kirby (5-3) pitched six-hit ball into the sixth while getting ample run support in his third consecutive victory.

Spot starter Touki Toussaint (1-1) took the loss for Los Angeles.

Twins 4, Royals 0

In Minneapolis, Emilio Pagán pitched two scoreless innings after Tyler Mahle departed with right shoulder fatigue, and the Twins beat the Royals for a three-game sweep.

Jose Miranda hit a two-run homer for Minnesota, which is fighting with Cleveland and the Chicago White Sox for control of the crowded AL Central.

After Mahle left in the third, Pagán (4-6), Griffin Jax, Jhoan Duran, Michael Fulmer and Trevor Megill finished Minnesota's second straight shutout. A diving catch by center fielder Gilberto Celestino saved a run in the seventh.

Mahle is going to be further evaluated and the team is expected to provide an update later Wednesday or Thursday.

Reds 1, Phillies 0

In Cincinnati, Jose Barrero hit a game-ending RBI single off Seranthony Domínguez with two out in the ninth inning, sending Cincinnati to the win.



Cardinals 5, Rockies 1

In St. Louis, Jordan Montgomery picked up his third win in as many starts with St. Louis, and Nolan Gorman drove in three runs in a victory over Colorado.

St. Louis won for the 12th time in 13 home games and beat Colorado for the 11th straight time at home while improving to a season-best 14 games over .500 at 65-51.

Colorado lost its fourth in a row and has dropped 18 of 26 since the All-Star break.

Montgomery (6-3), who was acquired from the New York Yankees on Aug. 2, gave up one run on six hits in 5 2/3 innings. He struck out eight.

Jose Iglesias had two hits for the Rockies, who have been held to one run or less six times since July 26. German Marquez (6-10) gave up three runs on seven hits over six innings.

Athletics 7, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Sean Murphy had his second two-homer game and rookie Shea Langeliers hit his first major league home run in his second game with Oakland.

Murphy pulled a solo home run to left field in the first inning, launched an opposite-field, two-run shot in the third doubled and scored in the eighth inning.

Langeliers, from nearby Keller, Texas, homered on an 0-2 pitch with one on during Oakland's four-run eighth inning.

A's rookie righthander Adam Oller (2-5) allowed one run — his fewest in 10 starts — on five hits with four strikeouts and one walk.

Cole Ragans (0-2) gave up three runs on four hits and one walk in five innings while striking out three. It was Ragans' third big league start.

The A's, with the worst record in the American League, have won two consecutive games following a nine-game losing streak.

Diamondbacks 3, Giants 2

In San Francisco, pinch-hitter Jake McCarthy hit a go-ahead two-run single in the eighth, and Arizona rallied past San Francisco.

New Arizona outfielder Stone Garrett had a tying double in the fourth for his first career hit in his highly anticipated major league debut after eight seasons in the minors.

J.D. Davis hit a go-ahead solo homer in the sixth for San Francisco and LaMonte Wade Jr. connected in the third, but Dominic Leone (3-4) couldn't hold it to give Carlos Rodón a fourth straight winning start.

Noé Ramirez (4-3) recorded the final two outs in the seventh for the win, and Mark Melancon closed it out against his former club for his 17th save.

New York Yankees' Josh Donaldson hits a home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022, in New York.

Astros 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Framber Valdez threw seven solid innings, Yordan Alvarez drove in a run and scored one, and Houston ended Chicago's five-game winning streak.

The AL West-leading Astros hung on after blowing late leads in the first two games of the series. The White Sox trail AL Central-leading Cleveland by two games.

Valdez (12-4) gave up two runs and seven hits, struck out six and walked three. Ryan Pressly pitched the ninth for his 24th save in 28 chances.

Michael Kopech (4-9) took the loss, going six innings and allowing three runs and five hits. He struck out two.

Cubs 3, Nationals 2

In Washington, Yan Gomes hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning, lifting the Cubs to the victory.

With two out and Franmil Reyes aboard after a leadoff double, Gomes hit a soft liner to right against Steve Cishek. Gomes played for the Nationals from 2019-21.

Erich Uelman (1-1) got two outs for his first major league win. Rowan Wick pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

P.J. Higgins homered for Chicago.

Lane Thomas hit two doubles for Washington, and rookie Joey Meneses extended his hitting streak to 11 games. Jake McGee (1-3) got the loss.

Red Sox 8, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Christian Arroyo had three hits and three RBIs, Alex Verdugo reached base five times and 42-year-old Rich Hill won for the first time in nearly two months in Boston's victory over Pittsburgh.

Sources: Talks on possible Watson settlement progress

By ROB MAADDI and
TOM WITHERS
AP SPORTS WRITERS



Talks between the NFL and NFL Players Association on a discipline settlement for Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson have progressed. However, it's uncertain whether the two sides will reach a deal, two people familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The people spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

The sides are seeking a compromise before any punishment is handed down by

Peter C. Harvey, a former New Jersey attorney general who was appointed by Commissioner Roger Goodell to rule on the league's appeal of a six-game suspension already imposed on Watson by an independent disciplinary officer.

Last week, the AP was told Watson was willing to accept an eight-game suspension and \$5 million fine. The league has been seeking a lengthier punishment for Watson, who was accused of sexual assault and sexual harassment by two dozen women in Texas.

The three-time Pro Bowl QB was allegedly sexually inappropriate with the women during massage therapy appointments while he played for the Houston Texans. Wat-

son settled 23 of 24 civil lawsuits filed by the women.

It's not known if Harvey is waiting for the sides to exhaust any possibilities of a settlement before ruling.

A settlement could get Watson on the field this season for the Browns, who traded three first-round draft picks — and five overall — for one of the game's top QBs in March and signed him to a fully guaranteed \$230 million contract.

Watson has always denied any wrongdoing. Shortly before his debut for the Browns last week, Watson apologized for the first time "to all the women I've impacted."

Watson's contrition came as Harvey considered the league's appeal of a ruling



AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson looks to throw during NFL football practice in Berea, Ohio, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022.

NMSA board election set for Aug. 25

The Northern Marianas Sports Association will hold a special general membership meeting on Aug. 25 for the election of the new NMSA Board of Directors.

The meeting is set for 5:30pm at the NMSA conference room at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The incoming NMSA Board will have its work cut out for them, as the NMI prepares for several off-island

competitions. First up is the Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands that will run July 25 to Aug. 5, 2023. There's also the 2023 Solomon Islands Pacific Games that will be held from Nov. 19 to Dec. 2, while Palau will host the Pacific Mini Games in the summer of 2025. The incoming NMSA board will also have to take on the initial stage of preparations in 2026 for the 2027 Pacific Games that Tahiti is hosting.

Locally, the incoming NMSA board will have to oversee the ongoing improvement projects at the Oleai Sports Complex. Major transformations have been made at the OSC facilities through the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency funding and the support of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee, resulting in the successful staging of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games. However, there are many projects that still need to be completed, such as replacement of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium flooring and fencing of the OSC, to provide the NMI community better and safer facilities.

In addition, the NMSA board will continue to prioritize providing assistance to member federations, which includes promoting good governance, working on financial stability, and supporting athlete development. (PR)

Robinson called his actions

"egregious" and predatory and while she levied a six-game suspension, the league wasn't satisfied and appealed. The NFL had been seeking a year-long suspension.

For months, the Browns have operated under the assumption Watson would be out for at least part of the 2022 season. Veteran Jacoby Brissett is slotted to start while Watson is out, but a full-season ban could move the team to hit the market for another quality QB.

Following his apology last week, Watson showed rust in

an abbreviated preseason appearance in Jacksonville, his first game action in nearly 600 days. Watson badly overthrew his first pass and finished 1 of 5 for 7 yards in three series.

Brissett began getting the majority of work with Cleveland's first-team offense this week. He's not expected to play in Sunday's home exhibition against Philadelphia. Browns coach Kevin Stefanski hasn't disclosed the team's plans for Watson against the Eagles, who will practice with the Browns in Berea, Ohio, on Thursday and Friday.

Ulipi and company reeled in a 35-pounder.

In the yellowfin category, San Juan skippered by Tony Maestro with deckhand Earl Moises hooked a 69-lb fish to win the top prize of \$1,500.

As reported earlier by the Saipan Tribune, Lucky Harvest captained by Cecilio Raiukiulipi won the billfish category of the 2nd Annual Tinian Beef, Beer and Bands Festival Fishing Derby.

Raiukiulipi, along with his crew made up of Ray Dela Cruz, J.J. Sablan, Jun Salik, and Jeffery Hofsneider, landed a 772.5-lb monster marlin to take home the \$2,000 top prize.

Lucky Harvest also won the wahoo category and pocketed the \$1,500 purse associated with the catch after Raiuki-

Aside from congratulating all the winners, Farrell also thanked all the participants of this year's 2nd Annual Tinian Beef, Beer and Bands Festival Fishing Derby.

"Thank you, we look forward to seeing you all at our next event."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	73	45	.619	
Tampa Bay	62	54	.534	10
Toronto	62	54	.534	10
Baltimore	61	56	.521	11½
Boston	59	59	.500	14

Central Division

Cleveland	63	55	.534	
Minnesota	61	55	.526	1
Chicago	61	57	.517	2
Kansas City	48	71	.403	15½
Detroit	45	75	.375	19

West Division

Houston	76	43	.639	
Seattle	65	54	.546	11
Texas	52	65	.444	23
Los Angeles	51	67	.432	24½
Oakland	43	75	.364	32½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	76	42	.644	
Atlanta	72	47	.605	4½
Philadelphia	65	52	.556	10½
Miami	52	66	.441	24
Washington	39	80	.328	37½

Central Division

St. Louis	65	51	.560	
Milwaukee	62	54	.534	3
Chicago	49	67	.422	16
Cincinnati	46	70	.397	19
Pittsburgh	45	72	.385	20½

West Division

Los Angeles	81	35	.698	
San Diego	66	54	.550	17
San Francisco	59	58	.504	22½
Arizona	54	63	.462	27½
Colorado	51	68	.429	31½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOFTBALL

From Page 24

want them to feel that spirit again. It's been four years since Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan and since then our kids have never played baseball... In the very beginning of our practices, our kids made friends and they continue to. I saw weaknesses but overcame them with discipline. I see

my kids change and become humble with each other. I myself and my coaches take time away from our family just to teach and to train our kids that want to learn the game that we love."

As far as results of the CNMI Youth Baseball Team Fundraiser go, Mamaaw beat Homies, 12-6, last Wednesday to improve to 2-1, while dealing Homies its second loss in three games.

Kliq also maintained its squeaky clean 3-0 slate after wiping the floor clean of Tokahao, 15-4. Tokahao won its match against Munchies via forfeit to improve to 2-1.

In the battle of unbeaten, No Excuse beat Regulators, 20-0, to go up to 3-0, while dropping the latter to 2-1.

Skeet also edged Dat's It, 21-20, to up its record to 3-1, while Dat's It fell to .500 at 2-2.



LeBron inks 2-year, \$97.1M deal with Lakers

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Sources: Talks on possible Watson settlement progress

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24 FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Trench Warz returning ‘sooner than later’



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Two MMA newbies battle on the ground in one of Trench Tech's Rites of Passage events at the Saipan World Resort.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Trench Tech Promotions Inc. president Justis “Cuki” Alvarez assured mixed martial aficionados that Trench Warz has not gone the way of the dodo and promised that action inside the eight-sides will return soon.

“I have had many people ask me when the next MMA fight will be on island and that they are longing for some much needed entertainment. I just tell them that it’s really all about timing and that once things are totally back to normal with flights and protocols, then we will definitely bring back the fight game to the CNMI,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Even before COVID-19 essentially brought MMA entertainment to a standstill on Saipan, Trench Tech was already reeling with the island still recovering from the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

“The last Trench Warz MMA event we had on island was in June of 2018. We were actually totally scheduled to have our final event in November or December of the same year, but we all know what happened, Super Typhoon Yutu!” said Alvarez.

With the CNMI in full recovery mode, the Trench Tech Promotions head honcho said it was just logically impossible to hold a Trench Warz event.

“After the devastation that Yutu left on Saipan and the Marianas, the entire infra-

See TRENCH on Page 23

TFA congratulates winners of BBB Derby



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lucky Harvest captain Cecilio Raiukilipiy, second from left, accepts the \$2,000 check from Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan after he and his crew topped the billfish category of the 2nd Annual Tinian Beef, Beer and Bands Festival Fishing Derby.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Tinian Fisher Association yesterday congratulated all the winners of the 2nd Annual Tinian Beef, Beer and Bands Festival Fishing Derby held last Saturday in the waters of the Marianas.



sponsoring an additional prize for the yellowfin category and for providing the T-shirts of the participants

They also extended their kudos to Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan for sponsoring the prizes for this year's Tinian Beef, Beer and Bands Festival Fishing Derby.

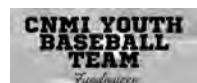
“Congratulations to all the winners. We, the derby committee, and Tinian Fishers Association would like to thank all the sponsors for this year's Tinian Beef, Beer and Bands Festival Fishing Derby,” said TFA president Richard Farrell.

The TFA especially thanked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for

See TFA on Page 23

Softball fundraiser dedicated to fallen Guam player

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Aside from facilitating Scoutz Youth Baseball Team's upcoming trip to Guam, the ongoing CNMI Youth Baseball Team Fundraiser at the Capitol Hill Ballfield is also honoring the memory of Steven Alcantara.

Coach Jerome Delos Santos said Alcantara is a contemporary of his when he and

Alcantara's brother, Roke, used to square off frequently in baseball tournaments in the region.

“I started practicing with one kid until 50 kids eventually came. They were 13- and 14-year-olds, some 15, 16, 17, and even 18-year-olds. We practiced three times a week and then I called up Roke and said ‘brother, let's make something happen for our kids in honor of our beloved brother, Steven Alcantara. So we both agreed.’

“He scouted two talented baseball players of our own and gave them scholar-

To this end, UOG and Roke Alcantara will host Delos Santos and his Scoutz Youth Baseball Team in the Inaugural Marianas Friendship Labor Day U18 Baseball Tournament set for next month.

Months before, Roke Alcantara, who is a coach of the University of Guam Baseball Team visited Saipan to scout and recruit players for the Tritons varsity team.

“My expectations in Guam are for my kids to have fun and enjoy baseball again. I

ships at the University of Guam. He inspired me to do what he did to our own kids,” said Delos Santos.

As far as his expectations in the Inaugural Marianas Friendship Labor Day U18 Baseball Tournament, Delos Santos said he just hopes his players will come out better players and even better persons after the competition.

See SOFTBALL on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coach Jerome Delos Santos, second from left standing, with his Scoutz Youth Baseball Team during a picnic Sunday at Micro Beach.